

SEVEN DAYS

NEED
WORK?
145 jobs in
Classifieds



THE Winter Reading ISSUE

LEAVE IT TO BEAVERS?

PAGE 14

UVM versus dam wildlife



TOME TACTICS

PAGE 10

Indie bookstores' adaptations



AUTHOR, AUTHOR

PAGE 12

New books by six Vermont writers

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THE LAST

SEVEN DAYS

COMPILED BY AMY BRONK & TYLER HACHEROV

WEEK IN REVIEW

DECEMBER 13 - DECEMBER 19, 2012

Tragedy in Newtown



Vincent students arrived at schools under police guard. Mourners, including school administrators, sought to ease some of their concerns and pupils including last Friday's horrific shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. As that community grieves, such concerns as less and greater gun restrictions, reduce emergency protocols and gun laws, Peter Shumlin announced all day at a press conference.

In Washington and Montpelier, the state was learning to what the government does in response to tragedies in the future — including the sensitive subject of passing stricter

gun-control laws. As Paul Heintz reported this week, the Senate on page 12 of its version of congressional legislation to be passed questions about whether they support renewing the ban on assault weapons and extending the ban on certain semi-automatic weapons. In an earlier mass of legislation, Colorado and Arizona

In viewing the issue, Vermont politicians may be missing their best opportunity to support renewing gun laws without paying a political price.

 
Thomas Naylor, 1936-2012
Vermont had one of its most unique political figures last week. Thomas Naylor, founder of the secessionist New England Vermont Republic, on December 9 declared his suffering from a terminal brain tumor so severe that he could no longer care for himself. Naylor, a Charlotte resident, died on Saturday. In his memoir *100 Years*, Naylor, which he self-published the same year he declared that "Our nation has truly lost its way. America is no longer a sustainable nation where economically, politically, socially, militarily or environmentally."

He sold off his Vermont home and created a second Vermont. He founded the first secessionist U.S.T.E. before Vermont joined the Union. Naylor says assistance to disaster victims is his top priority. "I am here to help our veterans and veterans' families," Naylor's message ends with a look at Naylor's life and legacy — including claims of CIA ties to controversial assassination groups. Read the full story at secedvt.com/naylormessage.

facing facts



BORN REBELLED

Promised cell in New Mexico, a amateur killer from Vermont plotted to murder and assassinate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, that's sick.



BETTER

Vermont's ranking as America's healthiest state last week made it a evolutionary favorite. We're getting more obese every year.



IN DEBT

A legislative committee has endorsed issuing Vermont drivers' licenses to undocumented immigrants. Page 30 O'Reilly



WHAT NOW?
Brattleboro
mayors
wanting
bold menu changes
would mean bigger
seats and fewer
seats on the city
council. Bad
news for them?

PHOTO COURTESY OF STAFFORD PINEAPPLE

74

That's how many people have died in our cities in Vermont this year. In 2011, there were 52 fatalities.

TOP FIVE

- 1 "An Evolving Society Continues a Movement for the Homeless" by Vermonters helped her "Changing Just" by Katelyn Flagg. *Vermont Public Radio* is an increasingly popular program for the homeless. Click here to listen.
- 2 "The Wrecking Crew" by Tom Nichols. The 2012 Richard Shaver Award for best book of political writing.
- 3 "First Love: Meeting the Mother" by Karen Lippert. With music, sophisticated humor and an endearing craft beer list, *Commonwealth Pub* and *Wetherspoon's* in Burlington.
- 4 "The Little Book That Could" by Chris Hayes. A must-read for the rest of us.
- 5 "Far Away: People in Our Neighborhood" by Paul Theroux. Green Mountain Press' latest novel provides a surreal tour of the Lowell Mountain roads. Get hooked so long as you can because the Berkman-Christie's publisher shut down.

tweet of the week:

@DANMURKIN

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GO, GAMACHE

I loved Eric Salberg's piece on the Gamache dairy farm ("Sheep in Vermont," December 8).

Heidi Pletsch
WATERBURY

REMAKE MORAN

[Re "What We Want," November 28] Regarding your suggestion that Burlington needs an indoor market on the waterfront remediated use of my favorite Moran Place idea. Reverse the south-facing, L-shaped building in glass to create a covering, tall, crystalline greenhouse full of sun-starved ledges of tomato plants, strawberries, green peppers and zucchini. Grow tiny freshwater fish in huge ponds on the ground floor, which can provide food and moisture for the hydroponic fruits and vegetables.

An aesthetically stunning, year-round, fish-and-vegetable farm on the Burlington waterfront could be the world-class symbol of the city that movement leaders are seeking. It would embody Vermont's commitment to sustainability and Burlington's reputation for outstanding food. What more symbolic statement than turning an ugly 20th century behemoth of construction into a sleek 21st-century icon of sustainability?

The idea is far-fetched. Sweet Water Organics of Milwaukee has done it. But Burlington has one up on them. The Milwaukee greenhouse is not located where a rooftop restaurant and hotel rooms are likely to bring summertime throngs. As for winter, remember that even when it's cold and snowy, greenhouses are warm, moist and green.

Cynthia Norman
BURLINGTON

LOOK TO CLEVELAND

Re three new lengthening opportunities to have "What We Want" [November 28] as described at the recent Seven Days staff off. First, a solo "Why not turn the Moran Place into a year-round event or other environment?" It doesn't need to be like the Bronx Zoo or Montefiore's Beddoe. We certainly can do as well as Cleveland's modest structure, which transformed the dreary one from my childhood into a small, world-class one. And it's a natural to join ECHO Lake Aquarium and Science Center on the waterfront.

Second, Wausauki is the perfect location for a "Food bazaar." All of the current structures can be divided into themed stalls and mini-markets. The land at the west end of Champlain Mill is an ideal location for a two-story building: restaurants or offices on the second floor and a year-round, farmers' market on the ground floor. "Garage" doors that open up to warm weather would allow each vendor to have selling space facing

both a central interior hall and the outside European cities. Seattle and, yes, Cleveland, do it. Why not here? We have a wealth of entrepreneurs with both local and international market experience to make such a venture vibrant and attractive. City Market could take the lead, anchoring the area with its second store. There's a parking garage and ideas to improve the pedestrian crossing problems. What are we waiting for? This one is a no-brainer.

Anne Litsky
WATERBURY

FORGET THE F-35

Don't let it concern that our illustruous governor decided to take one of the wealthiest businesses in Burlington and two others to hear the F-35 [Bar Game, December 12]. There were no representatives from the opposition — not a very intelligent PR move. To make matters worse, the governor now claims the F-35 is as lesser than the F-22. I believe it as well demonstrated that the opposite is true. If one looks at the video news footage of the jet taking off, you can see that sound meter registering 130dB — much louder than the F-22. This plane still has enormous safety issues as reported by a Pentagon study group and the past director of the F-35 program. That, I would think, should take precedence over the noise issue that government and congressional delegates just don't get it. They are not directly affected, so why not use the issue of jobs, which, incidentally and巧合地, has recently risen from 800 to 1,000? When IBM had off more than a thousand people in past years, didn't our communities survive? Of course they did. Our livelihood is not dependent on the Air Guard or its future projects.

Jerry Bourque
COLD SPRING

**CORRECTIONS**

There were two errors in last week's "Mugshot History Tour." The bodies of 1812 soldiers discovered buried under Burlington's Potomac and Madison streets are now in Lakewood Cemetery; there's no burial ground on Lakewood Terrace. And it was during the Revolutionary War that Lake Champlain's Rock Dunder was subjected to shelling — not the War of 1812.

The December 5 story, "With Shelves Full, a Focused Number of Vermont's Homeless Are Living in Motels," incorrectly reported that the state of Vermont gave the Corporation on Temporary Shelter \$300,000 for homeless-prevention initiatives in 2008. The correct amount is \$20,000.

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DI RAIL 8PM
SECOND AVENUE 8PM
DI RESEARCH 8PM / JAZZ 8PM 10PM
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contents

DECEMBER 19-26, 2012 VOL. 10 NO. 16

LOOKING FORWARD



Winter Reading ISSUE!

So many words no little time. And yet we cheerfully give you more to read every week! In **ENTERTAINMENT**, we add a **10-DISC** set of new movies and a **best** book. This week's **ARTICLES** by Vermont writer BRETT ANN STANCU, a fun **60-60 BLUES** mix-and-match and now-in-keeping **INCREASING PUZZLES** from Jon Kotek. In addition, we offer legal **REVIEWS** of six books from authors you may not know. **CHEESE** French rounds up seven **FOODIE** WINNERS. Ian Koenig **ROCKS** what he does as a **VINTAGE BOOK DEALER**. Pamela Polston checks in with a pair of book bloggers who talk about what's cool at their **BOOKSELLERS**—are they closing? You know, selling books. So, and our cover? Hey, **DEBRAH VERNETTE** is back with her book club 2.0. What better to peddle reading?

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FUN STUFF

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scripted
movies you missed
new quotes
they will intrigue
books that rock
books that rock
the chronicles
this week's reads
fall's prettiest reads
not meant for regular
armchair art
paranormal

CLASSIFIEDS

- 28 vehicles
38 housing/namess
39 legal stuff
45 homesweat
46 for sale/for rent
47 wanted
48 wanted
49 art legal
51 salutes/obituaries
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Stacked in Vermont, *Shelby Stone* (left) turned to his wife, *Shirley Shaeffer*, a 94-year-old former *Shenendehow* teacher, to help him clean out his basement. When she died in 2009 and opened *Shenendehow* studio, after her shop was demolished during this winter, the 94-year-old community rallied to help the shop become *Shenendehow*.



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the MAGNIFICENT 7

MUST SEE, MUST DO THIS WEEK
COMPILED BY COURTNEY COFF



(1)

ON SHAPING IN SHAPES

Iconic artist and master illustrator Charley Harper loved nature. This bird, alone in Luauque, but the way he transcribed that passion into his work surely was. With a style that he called "minimal realism," Harper distilled details into bold colors and geometric renderings. *"Regaled by the Wild: The Art of Charley Harper"* is currently displayed at the Hampshire Museum of Science in Northampton. (pictured: "Daffur").

SEE ART REVIEW ON PAGE 7A

(2)

FRIDAY 21

STORIES THROUGH SONG

They say it pays to try new things. For participants in the Flynn's new Adult Cabaret Program, the reward is a night in the limelight. After auditioning, these students of the craft honed both ensemble work and solo skills. Pero Bonamico directs the group—who are now performers—in *An Evening of Cabaret*.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 5B

(3)

FRIDAY 21

Bridging the Gap

If classical musicians play, women sang round like a circle, you're probably aware of the *Revolution Sing Quartet*. The group's adult female performances include original music and arrangements along with spirited interpretations of modern hits. This year's hot day-tunes, "Christmas is Coming," includes selections from the concert, *Women Sing!*, and *The Musical*, a celebrated French concert series featuring the *CRM* Troupe.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 3D

(4)

SATURDAY 22 - MONDAY 24 &

WEDNESDAY 26

Making History

Parents step back in time crafting ornaments and dipping candles, as part of *Christmas at the Farm*. The collaborative, early conversations at the holiday which didn't just start December 25th in the United States, continue through January 1st, complete with December 26th mother parroting, folks in costume, dinner sing-along, and goat milking with, jack-in-the-pulpit, as their ingredient since 1842.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 2B

(5)

WEDNESDAY 19 & WEDNESDAY 26

Get Moving

In West Bell, the Appalachian Creek, Clarendon, the Chippewa, and the Pocumtuck, Native Americans hunting their kind in the Massachusetts. Today, winter sports enthusiasts flock across these to 100 miles of groomed trails and County roads. The *Wappo Nordic Cup 2012-13* involves snowshoeing and cross-country skiing alike to weekly SKI state and/or classic time trial.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 3H

(6)

FRIDAY 21

Last Hurrah

Whether you be with us all year down the arched aisle or just for the season, *Even if You've Seen One*, may be the place to be in the quiet days before Christmas. DJ's at multiple repeat plays hip-hop, dubstep, reggae and more accompanied by pyrotechnics and light shows. DJ Krikx, Djynx, and Body Painting artist Katalina (friends of Human Connection) close out the evening.

SEE CALENDAR LISTING ON PAGE 3B

(7)

WEDNESDAY 26

A Mix of Six

With 100+ artists headlining on Wednesday at Lucifer's Lounge, the festival goes on until a reasonable hour. Headliners include the likes of the Roots, Sufjan Stevens, and the indie rock ensemble *Matchbox Twenty*. Sunday, today's accomplished musicians are set with high octane live performances that reflect the groups' creative roots. Drawing on punk, funk, blues, country and everything with alternative rock influences, *Play Lab's* top local bands, grand finale, will be the *Play Lab's* top local bands, grand finale, the group's annual *Art Jam*.

SEE MUSIC LISTING ON PAGE 7D

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FAIR GAME OPEN SEASON ON VERMONT POLITICS BY PAUL HEINTZ

Guns 'n' Poses

POLITICS

Evrything changed the day a crazed man brandishing a semi-automatic rifle fired upon dozens of elementary school children.

The nation grieved. Members of Congress introduced legislation to ban high-capacity magazines and semi-automatic weapons. A president who had resisted gun-control measures decided to act.

The year was 1999. The scene of the crime: a Cleveland Elementary School playground in Columbine, Colorado, where the children were killed and another 20 injured.

Three months later, a Republican congressman from Vermont named **RON SMITH** signed on to the **Stearns-Austin Assault Weapons Act of 1999**. Though he'd backed gun rights when he first ran for the House the year before, Smith had a change of heart after a discussion with a high school student from Washington, DC.

"It was an important moment in my life," Smith recalls. "All the sudden I concluded there were so many elements of the gun-control discussion that were upside down."

So the National Rifle Association set its sights on the Republican congressman, spending a million dollars in the 1999 election to defeat Smith and others who backed the bill. It worked: Smith lost to a gun-rights supporter who subsequently voted against the Brady Handgun Bill, which mandated federal background checks for many gun purchases.

That's just one reason why **CHRIS DRAKE**

"There was absolutely no doubt in that '99 vote that the NRA [got [Smith] elected and he owed them," says **CHRIS BRANTLEY**, a former Vermont statehouse chief of the Associated Press and now an executive at National Life Group.

Times have changed since 1999 — kind of.

Sanders and Sen. **PATRICK LEAHY** (D-VT), who both opposed the Brady Bill, subsequently backed the 1994 Federal Assault Weapons Ban and an (unsuccessful) reauthorization in 2005. They — and Congressmen **PETER WILSON** (D-VT) — have had mixed records on gun laws.

But the Smith episode is seared in the memory of every Vermont politician of that era. For while Vermont may be the most liberal state in the country, its gun policies remain those of a rural enclave ruled by sparseness.

"Hunting is an integral part of who Vermonters are, so that's why I think you

are a lot of Vermont politicians seeking not to offend on this issue," Drake says.

That may explain why, in the wake of last week's horrific school shooting in Newtown, Connecticut, many of the state's most prominent politicians have been loathe to answer questions about whether new gun laws are necessary.

Opposition to **LESLIE SANDERS**, Welch and Gov. **PETER WILSON**, who is out of the country, turned down repeated requests for interviews Monday and Tuesday. They each declined to answer specific written questions from *Vermont Daze* — and from the *Burlington Free Press* — about their positions on gun laws and about potential legislative responses to the Sandy Hook tragedy.

THERE WAS ABSOLUTELY NO DOUBT IN THAT '99 VOTE THAT THE NRA GOT [SANDERS] ELECTED AND HE OWED THEM.

CHRIS DRAKE

Instead, they offered up only opaque statements that fail to say well, anything.

SENATOR BARBARA BAUMA may have called for a national conversation about last week's shooting — but for these four Vermont politicians, that conversation is being conducted via press release.

And that's nothing new.

When **Seven Days** gauged the congressional trio in January 2011 following the gunned slayings of two Vermonters, each declined to be interviewed, offering only statements arguing that gun laws are best left to the states. Asked if the三人组 abandoned the following month about the Tucson shooting that left six dead and fellow House member **SARIBELLE DORRISON** injured, Welch said, "I'm going to see what legislation is proposed."

But Welch's only legislative action

against semi-automatic weapons appears to have been a letter to Attorney General **CHRIS WILNER** and 64 other House Democrats signed two years before Tucson. Holder had suggested at a February 2009 press conference that the Obama administration might reinstate the expired assault-weapons ban.

"We believe that this ban was ineffective during the 10 years it was law and would oppose its re-enactment," the

Welch-signed letter reads. "The gun control community has unsuccessfully stalled many Americans into believing that [weapons included in the ban] are fully automatic machine guns. They are not. These firearms fire one shot for every pull of the trigger."

Welch earned an "A" rating the following year from the National Rifle Association. Since then, his mark has dropped: In 2013, he earned a "C."

The same can't be said of **Brantley**, who won "B" or "A" ratings from the NRA prior to each of his three elections — not to mention a \$1500 check from the group in October. Asked for a copy of the NRA questionnaire Brantley filed out when seeking the group's endorsement, campaign manager **ALEX MACLAUGHLIN** claims she didn't keep one.

The voting records of Sanders and Leahy appear to be more nuanced. In '99, they both opposed the Brady Bill, but supported the assault weapons ban. (In a partisan reversal, former Republican senator **JAN JEFFORDS** voted for the Brady Bill); and in recent years, they voted to allow gun owners to carry weapons on Amtrak trains and in national parks but opposed letting those with permits to carry concealed weapons in one state do so in another.

Both have recently received poor or middling grades from the NRA.

To be sure, the national dialogue around gun laws — not to mention mental-health and violent-environment — is only just beginning. And while a handful of pro-gunning politicians outside Vermont have had "from Jesuit to Jesuit" moments in the days since Sandy Hook, it may take others more time to react and respond to such a traumatic event.

But no matter how long it takes, the question for Vermont politicians is this: Will they risk becoming the next Peter Smith or will they hunker down and hope hell that this too shall pass, as it did with Stockton, Columbus, Vegas, Tech and Aurora?

And if they do back at the NRA, will voters punish or reward them?

Sen. **PETER WILSON** (D-Gilkeson) thinks the latter. He believes Vermont's political climate has changed since Sandy Hook.

"Typically people have thought of gun control as the third rail of Vermont politics, and I think there was a time when that was true. But I think in this day and age, we've past that," he says. "We're in grasping every four seconds for a mass shooting,

I think it's gotten to the point where the electricity has been turned off on that rail, but it's a leased apprenticeship."

To that end, Bouchard says he plans to introduce legislation in the Vermont Senate in January that could restrict assault-style rifles or high capacity magazines — or tackle the issue in another manner.

"I will stand by people's right to use rifles to hunt, but I'm not going to say that's the same thing as buying weapons that are designed for close-range combat to kill human beings," he says.

Bouchard wouldn't be the first to try to bolster Vermont's already stringent gun laws. When Rep. [JAMES MCDERMOTT](#) (D-Wash.) sought to hold gun owners criminally negligent if their unloaded weapon caused a child's death, "it was absolutely nowhere other than to get us on the NRA website," she recalls.

Wards-deppen's effort followed the 2009 suicide of a constituent's 13-year-old son, [AARON KUE](#), who used an unsecured gun obtained at a friend's house to kill himself.

"People feel threatened every day preparing to talk about that," she says. "It was an incredible uncomfortable time for me to have to spend hours every day with that email account, when really I was just trying to make a point that we can do better when it comes to protecting our kids."

As it stands, Vermont has some of the most permissive gun laws in the country. The state earned an "F" from the Law Center to Prevent Gun Violence and set out of 100 points from the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

Vermont sets no limits on the number of firearms that can be purchased, at one time, nor does it impose a waiting period on gun purchases. Heck, even 16-year-olds can buy and carry concealed handguns in Vermont without their parents' permission.

Honest Speaker **DAVE SMITH** (D-Mattawan), who himself earned a 92 percent rating from the NRA this year, says while he's "open to talking with people about a reexamination" of the state's gun laws, he's cognizant of the challenges involved.

"No sophomore who has tried to build consensus around basically baby steps, I can tell you it's going to be difficult," he says. "People feel very strongly on both sides of the issue."

As for Ward's political analysis, she says the Chittenden County senator carries a pretty sharp cultural — and geographic — divide.

"Philip lives in Burlington; I live in Montpelier, and I think there's a big difference of opinion depending on where you live," Smith argues.

Josephine Berney, counterpart, *Prairieuse Pro* **Tom JOHN CAMPBELL** (D-Windham) agrees. A former Florida police officer

and a gun owner himself, Campbell says the first bill he introduced in the Senate — to ban assault-pumping bullets — brought him nothing but grief from Vermont's gun lobby.

"I'll never forget someone coming up to me and saying, 'Hope you have a happy two years,'" Campbell recalls.

In the days since Study Hook, Campbell says he's been frustrated "with people across the country trying to politicize this tragedy."

"Emotions are running high," he says. "I don't like how jerk reactions to issues where never a tragedy happens happen to me. I know this was the case, so we're going to create a law to prevent it."

That said, following a period of reflection, Campbell thinks Vermont's gun laws may be ready for reexamination.

"I do not see the reason for people to have assault rifles. It doesn't matter if I get an 'F' [on the NRA's range]," he says, referring to the NRA's range. "And the high-capacity magazines? Unless it's law enforcement, then I don't see the reason you have to have that."

For Spokane Smith, last week's tragedy hit close to home. He spent his first five years in Newtown, where his father attended school. He has family friends whose children survived the shooting.

His voice cracking, Smith says, "I don't think you could set pictures of those kids and not wonder where the hell we are doing."

Twenty-three years after his own tough vote in favor of a federal ban on assault weapons, Peter Smith — Stevens' acquaintance first — says he wouldn't have voted so differently.

"I was always proud that I stood for something and I did not regret for a minute the position I took," says Smith, who now lives in Santa Fe and works for Kaplan Higher Education.

"I think this is an issue whose time has come. I know I will be supporting reasonable and thoughtful restrictions, and I urge Vermont's congressional delegation to do the same," he says. "My suspicion is they will. And my hope is they will."

Disclosure: Paul Hause worked as Peter Wards' communications director from November 2004 to March 2007.

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Plane Spoken: Why Frank Cioffi Is the F-35's Biggest Booster

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY

Frank Cioffi used to fly under the radar, quietly promoting Chittenden County business interests wherever it counted: Burlington, Burlington City Hall, Washington, D.C.

That is, until the leader of the Greater Burlington Industrial Corporation scored two key wins in the control of an F-35 fighter jet.

Cioffi, 52, has emerged as the clear champion of the Air Force option of handing up to two dozen of the weapons

at Burlington International Airport. At the head of GBIC, he orchestrated

and helped secure financing for the recent deployment flight trip to an air base in Florida, where Gov. Peter Shumlin and other Vermonters of the F-35 flocked to the impressive jet in action. Shumlin judged the roar of its engines to be no louder than that of the Pratt & Whitney based in Burlington.

Cioffi has powerful allies in his mission to land the F-35, but there's a sizable grassroots movement against the local bid down. In fact, at one public hearing earlier that year, Cioffi and Burlington developer Bruce Brouillette were the only F-35 proponents among roughly two dozen speakers. The Pratt & Whitney Show didn't play well with the plane's detractors, who accuse the GBIC of distorting or ignoring data and working as a propagandist on the payroll of that 1 percent.

Cioffi admits that controversy makes him uncomfortable. He has an emerging disposition that, at better suited to collaborating with business leaders than reasoning with homeowners fearful of the F-35's impact on property values or left-wing campaigners against "useless" infrastructure.

"For [them] is what I have to do: some body has to step up and support them," Cioffi says, referring to the hundreds of Vermonters who work for the Air Guard. If the F-35 ends up elsewhere, Cioffi warns, those people could find themselves unemployed. "These are working class people," he notes. "These jobs, full or part-time, mean everything to them and their families."

The push to station the plane in Vermont is "all about saving jobs," Cioffi argues. And preventing an airplane — or "playing defense," as he puts it — accounts for half of what Cioffi does at GBIC.

Helping to create jobs in Chittenden County, or "playing offense," takes up the rest of his time.

How effective is Cioffi in those two roles?

In the 15 years he's been running GBIC, the Vermont native and UVa grad has built a reputation for seriousness and reliability. State Sen. Tom Ashe (D-P-Chittenden), who sits on the Senate Economic Development, Housing and General Affairs Committee, says that when Cioffi comes to Montpelier to lobby for legislative actions, lawmakers understand immediately what is at stake.

"Other" economic-development guys tend to talk themselves, Ashe observes. "Frank doesn't. He's very concise, very much into the particulars of a project. I find that refreshing."

Cioffi worked for years, both inside and outside the administration of Gov. Howard Dean, to persuade

Hasley, a Canadian manufacturer of plastic moldings, to open a plant in Milton that would pay good wages to several hundred Vermonters. Hasley finally did build its factory, but job numbers there never spiraled as high as boosters had projected.

GBIC's most visible contribution to the Burlington-area economy takes the form of the seven industrial parks it has built since its launch in 1984. One of those manufacturer clusters, on Burlington's north end, was the home of a start-up that GBIC "took a gamble on," Cioffi recalls, helping to finance a facility for a snowboard maker paid off. Burton Snowboards grew to become one of Vermont's greatest economic-development success stories.

The heroic era of heavy industry ended long time ago, however — both as Vermont led nationally. Manufacturing accounted for about 10 percent of the

Although nothing in its name says "improved workforce training," that's also part of Cioffi's job in relation to both job retention and recruitment. He says that the number of jobs available in the state won't matter much if there aren't enough qualified Vermonters to fill them.

It's hard to say whether Cioffi performs well as regards in preserving jobs, according to Vermont auditor-elect Doug Miller, another Democrat/Progressive. "I've never seen a more striking indicator of that kind of effectiveness. How would our quarterly success in preventing jobs from going away?" Miller wonders.

Cioffi's channel bid comfortable office is on the corner of Burlington's Main and South Champlain streets in the building that also houses the Lake

BUSINESS



Champlain Regional Chamber of Commerce, with which GBIC shares two employees. With four additional full-time staffers, it has an annual budget of \$300,000.

Ninety thousand of that comes from the state, which appropriates an identical amount to each of the 12 regional-economic development agencies in Vermont. They're all nonprofit bodies, but they're all incorporated by acts of the Vermont legislature.

GBIC also gets a total of \$55,000 a year from the 17 towns in Chittenden County that contribute the biggest share — about \$30,000 — while south Burlington pays less than half that. The contribution recently caught the attention of Suzanne Green, chairwoman of the south Burlington city council, which last voted 5-1 against having the F-35 at IRTV. Green says she appreciates the irony of her city's decision to be an entity that she believes is fighting hard against its interests.

Three-quarters of CHCC's budget comes from rent that private companies pay as a pair of buildings in Colchester owned by the real-estate-investment arm of the nonprofit corporation. Additionally, local employers voluntarily threw \$80,000 into CHCC's kitty, which is less than half of what they ended up prior to the recession, Gaffney notes.

Seated at a conference table, Craft narrated his autobiography during a recent 20-minute interview. The account included an explanation of why he pronounced the name "coffee."

Claire's grandfather emigrated from Italy to St. Albans, where French speakers had trouble with the "che-ah-shuh" pronunciation. The "coffee" tag just passed down to Tracy, but not to his brother, Hubert, who has reverted to the authentic, soft C pronunciation of the family name.

Coffey's cousin, who is also named Robert, is the chair of the UVM board of
DIRECTORS

The Crafts have deep roots in St. Albans, where Franklin's father worked as a successful restorer and where Franklin still lives. Although his father was relatively well off, Craft never lost touch with the main camp's working class. Some of the workers who lost their jobs at Kangaroo were very disoriented in high school, the economic development specialist says, referring to the 38 employees who were recently told they'd be laid off because the battery plant is pulling the plug.

After UVIM, where he served as student government president, Gaffi helped Franklin County's economic development agency for two years before going into the real estate business with his father. "We did really, really well," Gaffi comments, then launches into his

He eventually became state economic development commissioner under Deen, whom Gaffi describes as a close friend. He also calls himself a Democrat, even though he sometimes supports Republicans running for the gubernatorial office.

Some of the bigger entrepreneurs on Fine Street may view the companies that G&P seek to recruit and retain as "kind of old-fashioned — corporate and conservative," concedes Michael Meire, who headed the former Community

and Economic Development Office during much of Mayor Peter Clavelle's 14-year tenure. "But the truth is," Max adds, "there's a ton of those types of jobs in Chittenden County."

Now chief financial and operating officer at the Champlain Housing Trust, Morris expatiates with Cliff's work — not only as a development advocate, but as a defender of Air Guard jobs. The former CEDO chief remembers the falkland peace activists示威 at the

From city hall, Marin had a different view: "It's part of the utility-industrial complex," he notes, but then adds, "The way we see it was that everybody working at General Dynamics was a *Vernunft*!"

The F-35 program is under "Who wants the F-35?" Moate asks. "Nobody wants the F-35" just a lot of Vermonter's are do want to retain the jobs the F-35 would ensure, he notes.

It's not that simple, Geeson suggests. A retired Air Force colonel, he notes that the lifespan of the F-16 fighter has already been extended by 10 years and could well have another 10 tacked on, given the constant delays and cost overruns in developing the aircraft.

"So at worst we're talking about maybe losing 400 full-time jobs for Vermonters in two decades," the South Burlington town council chief says. "That's right against the 1990 losses that will be so high most areas of the state do worse here — and that's supposedly a 'best case' scenario."

Gaffi also believes that F-25 has made a powerful argument when they point to the 300 South Burlington houses targeted for demolition because they're in an existing high-noise zone adjacent to takeoffs of the F-16 and commercial jets. "The airport could have done a lot better job of communicating with its neighbors," Gaffi says. Airport officials "put the Vermont Air Guard in a really bad position." (2)

(Disclosure: Tim Ahe is the domestic partner of Seven Days publisher and editor Paula Booth)



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UVM Sets Kill Traps for Dam-Building Beavers in Centennial Woods

BY KATHRYN FLAGG

When a family of beavers took up residence in a retention pond in Burlington's Centennial Woods this past fall, field internat Teige O'Connor saw it as an learning opportunity. His students could watch the animals up close.

But the University of Vermont viewed their new tenants — and the dam they built — as a nuisance. Worried about flooding, the university this month set lethal traps to kill the large, semiaquatic rodents.

At least one of the four beavers — an adult male that O'Connor nicknamed Nelson — is already dead. Now O'Connor and others are calling for the university to halt the trapping until spring, when the beavers could be resested.

O'Connor, a 28-year-old adjunct professor at UVM and the Community College of Vermont, lives a stones throw from Centennial Woods, a central area undivided between the main campus of UVM, which manages the area, and Interstate 89. The woods serve as O'Connor's outdoor laboratory for a class he teaches at UVM called "Natural History of Centennial Woods."

O'Connor estimates he and his students have spent hundreds of hours observing the beavers over the last four years, in the pond and elsewhere in Centennial Woods.

But apparently the animals went unnoticed by UVM staff — that is, until an engineer hired by the university noticed their handiwork in the pond on November 26. That's when Bill Nodell of the Colchester firm Kirby and Lassing noticed the beavers had plugged the ponds main outlet. One large mammal readily explained in an email, and the pond could spill over, flooding infrastructure downstream and causing disastrous erosion.

By the time Nodell noticed the beavers, it was too late in the season to move them to a new location. The stretch had already stockpiled their cache of winter food and would likely starve if released. After consulting with the United States Department of Agriculture's animal control unit in Barre and with state Fish and Wildlife game warden Jason Reed, UVM decided the best solution was lethal trapping. In early December, the



Teige O'Connor

university laid a beaver trap per who ate three coho salmon traps — large, steel wire used to catch fur-bearing animals — around the retention pond.

On December 7, O'Connor discovered the traps on a well-traveled beaver path near the pond. He also found and recovered the body of the first dead beaver, Melony. He broke the news to his students and alerted his neighbors via Front Porch Forum about the potential danger the traps posed for family pets

The next day, the traps were gone. UVM spokesman Barrage Corriveau guesses that "somebody stole them." O'Connor views it with alarm.

While their mysterious disappearances have caught the retreating beavers a brief reprieve, Corriveau says the university has made arrangements to have new traps placed "as soon as possible."

"There have been discussions with university faculty members regarding possible alternatives, and we are

open to exploring long-term solutions," Corriveau wrote in an email. "Unfortunately the current situation requires a more immediate solution and we have not been able to identify a viable short-term alternative."

On a recent walk to the beaver pond with O'Connor, the water was mostly covered in a thin layer of ice, through which the beavers had broken a narrow channel between their lodge and the damaged pond down a fence-topped with barbed-wire

ringed the pond, and power lines cut over the water. O'Connor and two of the beavers that began constructing their lodge here in early June. They left for part of the summer but returned at the end of September. A month later, the beavers "adapted" a second mating pair.

"This isn't great habitat for beavers," said O'Connor, as he tramped through the woods bordering the pond.

All around O'Connor were obvious signs of beaver activity: toppled trees, gnawed stumps and a stockpile of food to last the winter partially submerged in the ice. Because of the dam, the pond was about four feet higher than it would be normally. Given such telltale signs, O'Connor said he couldn't understand how the beavers went unnoticed by university staff until that month.

UVM grounds officials decided to comment for the story, directing all questions to Centennial Park Parade, who is in charge of Centennial Woods and UVM's eight other natural areas, since the pond isn't within his jurisdiction. It's technically just outside of the designated Centennial Woods natural area. He said he got the news about the beavers when he was copied on an email from Nodell.

O'Connor has gone to great lengths to study and behavior the beavers. He set up a game camera to catch the animals at night, grazing their way through trees and eating food down to the pond. He posted the footage to his blog, Wild Burlington, but UVM grounds crews have since removed his cameras, claiming it was an "unauthorized placement."

"We had anticipated such a close

WILDLIFE

relationship with them that he could feed them by hand," remarks Alain Dard, another adjunct professor in UVM's environmental program. "It's a little bit like a Jane Goodall situation."

Bearers don't have many natural predators, says O'Connor, which means they're fairly easy to tame. O'Connor has visited the classroom bearers so often that he believes they recognize his voice. When entering his classes on the Woods Hole River, O'Connor says Melvin popped up and looked him in the eye — a gesture O'Connor interpreted as the bearer saying hello.

"When I take students out there, and they're seeing a bearer for the first time five feet away from them, their eyes just light up. They don't breathe for 10 seconds, because they're really in awe of this wild creature that has treated them," says O'Connor. "That for me is something that doesn't exist in books, and it doesn't exist in classrooms or lectures or PowerPoints. It can only exist by allowing yourself to be out in wilderness."

The decision to trap the bearers has dismayed some of O'Connor's students. Ryan Pazzatella, a 22-year-old CGU student in O'Connor's "Natural History of Vermont" class, believes UVM could or should have known the bearers had moved into the pond sooner, before it was too late to relocate them. "I think what UVM is doing is kind of outrageous," he says.

What other options does the university have? Relocating the animals to the spring is one option but comes with its own potential problems. Bearers are creatures of habit, says O'Connor, and introducing them to a new habitat can cause stress and individual competition for resources. If left alone, O'Connor suspects the bearers would have found a new home next spring or summer, anyway, because "the habitat is too marginal."

Another option is creating "bearer buffers" or "bearer deconfliction"

= manmade additions that either prevent bearers from building dams or divert water through the blockade.

O'Connor worries that UVM's solution — traps set around the pond — could snare mink, fox, raccoons and deer that pass through Central Woods, not to mention dogs and cats. UVM has routinely left unlocked the gate on the fence around the pond, he says.

MORE broadly, O'Connor expresses concern for what he sees as a lack of transparency in making the decision to trap the bearers — apparently done without input from students, faculty and neighbors who use the natural area.

"I'd love to find a way of integrating community voices and student voice into management decisions," he says. "We're going to make it a lot slower, but it's going to make it a lot richer in experience ... and it will make the decisions that we make more meaningful ecologically and emotionally."

Pazzatella concedes it might make sense to involve more people in discussions about Central Woods. "We have to take a closer look at how effectively we're managing these natural areas and how we could do better," he says. It's not clear whether that would have helped the bearers, who jumped the Central Woods boundary when they moved into the retention pond.

For her part, Bernd blames the university on a lack of communication and a failure to fully explore alternatives. It's not a "bad guy, good guy story," she says.

"I'd like to think that there could be some middle ground," she says. With the bearers now heading under the ice for winter, she cautions, the university has a chance to "take a deep breath" and look at the situation again in the spring.

But if the university keeps setting traps for them, the bearers might not leave that long. □

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POLITICS

Weinberger Wants Year-Round Waterfront Action, But Some Neighbors Are Wary

BY KEVIN J. KELLEY

Burlington Mayor Miro Weinberger is asking the state for permission to stage concerts, festivals and other major events in Waterfront Park any night of the year until 11 p.m.

The proposal to amend the 10-year-old Act 280 permit governing use of the park — mandated by a September act-of-contest settlement — is aimed at the part of the Weinberger administration to greatly expand economic opportunities on the Burlington waterfront. The mayor, who has a lock signed on a developer, wants to make the park a regular venue for urban-style entertainment.

In its written request for changes in the Act 280 permit, the city says it seeks to “stimulate more year-round activity on the waterfront.” The thing describes Waterfront Park as “an active and vibrant public asset — but mostly during the warmer months.” During the colder months, the waterfront becomes a backwater with little going on. And that reality makes it difficult for businesses that particularly depend on customer traffic, to survive,” the Weinberger administration adds.

But the mayor himself insists in an email message that he has no plans to turn the park into a limited version of the

Flynn Center. “Any suggestion that my administration is seeking to have events at the Waterfront Park 365 days a year is flatly incorrect,” he declares.

The move is nonetheless sure to face strong opposition from waterfront residents as well as from other Burlingtonians who view the scenic waterfront park as a natural preserve rather than a profit-generating resource. On the other hand, Weinberger’s proposals will likely gain support from business interests and from city dwellers who agree that the waterfront is underutilized as a site for cultural happenings and large-scale celebrations.

“The waterfront is sacred ground in Burlington,” says City Councilor Mike Tracy. “It’s so important to so many people.”

Tracy, a Progressive representing part of the Old North End, adds that he isn’t firmly against more frequent commercial use of the park. “I’m not a black-and-white kinda’ guy,” he says. “I love live music.” But Tracy also insists that the waterfront must not become “a party-type place.”

Cyclists and walkers are already excluded from the park’s paths whenever major events take place there, notes David Greenberg, an attorney who lives in one of the mansions along Lake Street, adjacent to the park. A board

member of the 200 Lake Street homeowners’ association, Greenberg worries that the public will increasingly be barred from the park while nearby residents are harassed with loud noise on many more nights.

Judy Greenblatt, who lives in an apartment building opposite the Muran Pier, is circulating a petition that calls on the Act 280 district commission to reject the proposal for state frequent licensee hearings on the grounds that “the amount of traffic, noise and damage to Waterfront Park produced by events held or approved by the city of Burlington is already unacceptable.”

At present, commercial events are allowed to take place on Waterfront Park on no more than 20 dates between late May and mid-September. Augusted noise can be played on only 22 of those nights, and it must be switched off by 9:45 p.m. on Fridays through Thursdays, and by 10:45 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays. Another restriction: Eventuality may occur no more than three consecutive weekends.

In its request to amend the Act 280 permit, the Weinberger administration frames these restrictions as an unacceptable impediment to “maximizing the use of Waterfront Park for the public and protecting and nurturing economic development in the city’s important downtown

area.” The city also says that its suggested changes will enable it to “take advantage of opportunities and uses for the park that were never imagined in 1994, as well as opportunities and uses in the future that cannot be predicted today.”

The mayor himself is casting his proposal as a bid for “local control,” pointing out that Waterfront Park is the only state-owned park in Vermont overseen by state regulators. “The city has capacity to manage the park and should do so,” the mayor said in a December 13 interview.

“That doesn’t mean we won’t have similar or even more robust regulations at the local level,” said those now imposed by the state, Weinberger added. “We are aware of concerns about noise. We’re willing to make capital improvements and other changes to mitigate noise.”

The mayor emphasized that his proposed amendment does not call for an increase in permitted noise levels, as measured in readings taken at the periphery of the park. The standard would remain fixed at 15 decibels. But the city does seek a change in the reg so that noise should be considered an violation only if it is sustained at more than 15 decibels for 60 consecutive seconds. Currently, a violation any time sound exceeds 15 decibels.

In its filing, the city downplays noise

complaints made by neighbors like Greenberg, noting that "there have been minimal complaints from just a small number of people" during the 20 years in which concerts and festivals have taken place in the park. Regulations have been rigorously enforced, the city contends.

Greenberg, the homeowners' association member, says that simply isn't so. He contends that ongoing noise restrictions are routinely flouted and that nighttime events in the park are generally "managed out of control." Greenberg says he sometimes sees fits of dunes and the screaming of machinery used in setting up concerts.

For the Weisberger administration, it gives neighbors multiple avenues to address noise complaints to city hall. "The city has been highly responsive to these complaints," the city writes in the Act 250 filing, "and we can easily modify and update its event planning and permitting processes to proactively address potential concerns."

The mayor pointed out in last week's interview that the move by the city to amend the Act 250 permit issued at 1994 was mandated by the terms of a recent court settlement with lakefront homeowner Alison Lockwood. She had held the city on recreational and cultural uses of the waterfront in the past.

An agreement with Lockwood enabling the city to move ahead with infrastructure development in the area around the Morey Pier cause with a condition it required the city to seek an amended Act 250 permit by late November, Weisberger says.

The city's proposed changes, dated November 15, come in lighter but weaker than a prior Lockwood-made to Frost Pier. Her initial recommendation does not attack the city's position, it simply encapsulates what the city is asking in the 48-page document submitted to state regulators.

Lockwood declined to be interviewed concerning her own opinions of the proposed changes but that didn't stop the mayor from suggesting in an email message following his December 25 phone interview that "Lockwood's position, apparently, is that she does not want more people using the park more than it is already used."

Weisberger countered that since with his own view that "the people of Burlington should decide who uses the park and when and how they use it — not the Act 250 district commission appointed by the governor."

Appraised of Weisberger's comments, Lockwood's only response was, "The mayor can say whatever he wants, but he's putting words in my mouth I never said."

Another open question: What role will the public play in deciding which events take place in Waterfront Park? Under current regs, waterfront events are presented and reviewed by a seven-member advisory committee composed of nearby residents, business representatives, event promoters and city officials. Weisberger proposes to keep the committee but doesn't elaborate on membership in the Act 250 proposal. The mayor says, however, that Parks Director Jessie Bridges "plans to use that committee even more than in the past."

City Councilor Vickie Brennan (F-Ward 10), who represents renters and homeowners living close to Waterfront Park, suggests Weisberger should have solicited broad public comment prior to filing for the Act 250 changes. "The mayor has been talking about being inclusive, but I think this way of proceeding would short down public input," Brennan says.

Weisberger rejects that criticism. In a detailed email response, he says the Parks and Recreation Department's advisory committee gave extensive input to the

city's plan for changes in park regs. Two of the three members of a council committee overseeing the parks and cultural events also signed off on the proposal. Weisberger says, noting that the third member, however, did not respond to messages seeking his input.

Under state law, the three-member Act 250 district commission for Chittenden County will review Weisberger's proposed amendments as well as submissions from other officials and neighbors. But residents claiming to be affected by the contemplated changes may first persuade the commissioners that they are entitled to "party status." Whatever ruling is made by the commission can — and may well be — appealed to the state's environmental court. ☐

THE AMOUNT OF TRAFFIC, NOISE AND DAMAGE TO WATERFRONT PARK PRODUCED BY EVENTS HELD BY OR APPROVED BY THE CITY OF BURLINGTON IS ALREADY INTOLERABLE.

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Bloggers Tout Books; Bookstores Branch Out

BY PAMELA POLSTON

THERE'S no way you'd confuse 1990s urban boosters Liza Lam and Cate Jann with 21st-century cultural visionaries **LISA CADOW AND CATE JANN**. The two friends started out calling their blog-based book recommendations, then changed it to the Book Jam — for simplicity's sake, because **HENRY KISSINGER**, the co-owner of **NORWICH BOOKSTORES**, McCloskey calls the two Liza "booktarts" and for good reason.

Cadow used to work at the state Christie and still does when she is involved with the **NORWICH PUBLIC LIBRARY**. Christie is the founder of Everybody Wants Varnum, an extracurricular reading program in public schools. And the women are indefatigable champions of books, in person and on their blog, making suggestions for a variety of potential readers — such as their current holiday gift guide on Book Jam — and boasting book-enthusiasts. Their efforts benefit not only their town's independent bookseller and library but a community of readers.

The community includes the 200-plus to 250+ subscribers to the Book Jam blog. Christie says she adds that the site gets upward of 100 hits a day after new posts. Those numbers may not sound like much, but despite the small cache, the Cadows are pleased that "people in town are talking about books, grateful for our suggestions and are supporting the Norwich Bookseller," Christie says.

What's new: a blog didn't start out that way. At first, says McCloskey, she and the Liza considered a book-oriented radio show and podcasts. But the production demands surpassed their limited recording equipment. "Lisa Cadow has a blog [Book on the Road]," McCloskey says, "and as the idea eventually turned into a book blog."

The bookstore is not directly involved with the blog, but the two entrepreneurs are clearly symbiotic. Working in the state introduces Christie to new books, and she and Cadow openly express their loyalty to indie booksellers. The feeling is mutual. A current adhesion on the blog notes, "Thank You to Many at Norwich Bookseller, BookJam made [New Hampshire Public Radio's] Annual Holiday Book Show."

The Liza are generous with their own words, not simply listing books but providing mini reviews and, sometimes, personal commentary on why a book resonated. Christie and Cadow each have a "bookshelf" on the blog where they recommend dozen of releases in a variety of categories

— fiction, nonfiction, poetry and children's. They range from hot bear actors by the likes of Steve Eggers and JK Rowling to lesser-known releases by local authors, including deceased novelist **ARCHER MARSH** and young-adult author **ARCHER STEPHEN TAYLOR**. But all the books are new: one of Christie's recommendations, for example, is mystery writer Josephine Wright's 1991 *The Daughter of Time*. "I noticed that book as research for a literary book I was post-

Christie writes, "it held up."

Perusing the Book Jam blog, one wants



THE LISAS ARE GENEROUS WITH THEIR OWN WORDS, NOT SIMPLY LISTING BOOKS BUT PROVIDING MINI REVIEWS AND, SOMETIMES, PERSONAL COMMENTARY ON WHY A BOOK RESONATED.

nothing more than to sit down and read for hours, days. Perhaps the Liza — both working mothers — could tell us how they find the time?

McCloskey is a naturalist, too — these days, all booksellers do something besides sell books, and Norwich Bookseller is no exception. In addition to selling gift items, such as cards, wrapping paper and jigsaw puzzles, McCloskey organizes a host of events, both in-store and at other venues. Christie and Cadow are involved in a new and, so far, highly successful one called "Pages in the Pub," McCloskey says, which has been held twice at the Norwich Inn. It's an evening in which people can enjoy wine and talk about books — with, of course, their local independent bookseller. *Jerushas* are given a roster of books to be discussed and a checklist to rate what they'd like to buy. *Kappa Christie*: "We sold a ridiculous number of books in less than an hour."

The Liza are generous with their own words, not simply listing books but providing mini reviews and, sometimes, personal commentary on why a book resonated. Christie and Cadow each have a "bookshelf" on the blog where they recommend dozen of releases in a variety of categories



PHOTO BY ROBERT MCKEE

bookjamming.com/bookjammer.htm

with small publishers that don't pay fair publicity fees — is a growing niche for indie booksellers. At **PHOENIX BOOKS** in **MEDFORD**, owner **MIKE DELMONTE** and **HELEN REINER** have for a while offered these writers in-store readings while considering their own cases. As part of a "local author program" they offer shelf space to Vermont writers and charge them \$150 per event. But this is "like a revenue stream and more a cooperative effort," Delmonte says, noting the staff doesn't take a percentage for participation or for part-on an event.

He adds that Phoenix would need to hold five or six readings a week to profit from the program. Still, an event that draws even a small audience is likely to result in sales, which the store might not have had otherwise.

Delmonte says he's been in "serious negotiations" with makers of an electronic book machine that produce volumes on demand, which has been a hit with self-publishing authors. He expects to decide by February whether to purchase one. **NORTHERN HIGHLIGHTS** in **Montpelier Center** and **BODMAN & DAISIE BOOKSHOP** in **St. Johnsbury** have been negotiating their bookelling for several years with such publishers as the Espresso Book Machine, made by On Demand Books. Delmonte says the Espresso also has access to various digital libraries, enabling them to offer personally curated titles.

Speaking of digital books, Fleisher has been selling the Nook, an e-reader created for her in partnership with independent booksellers. Various models go for about \$40 to \$200, depending on size and options. "The first Nook we ordered is coded for our store, so we get a little rebate on sales," Delmonte says. "It's not much, but it helps."

Why purchase an e-reader as a bookstore rather than online? For the most amateur people like us to buy physical books, Fleisher says, "They want to hold it, touch it, see how it feels." She's skeptical about the number of book sales today by the e-reader industry but acknowledges the device is not going away.

At the Norwich bookstore, McCloskey says she's beginning to sell the Nook as well, but her enthusiasm is muted. "I just don't know about that yet," she says.

Obviously, booksellers are grasping that personal selling is king. Perhaps many of us continue to believe, as Book Jam's Christie puts it, "in the power of books to tell stories, and to create empathetic communities." □

Norwich Author Pens a Novel, One Bite at a Time

BY KIRK KARDASHIAN



BETHLEHEM HOMECOMING

Sensational feminist Jan venetiable bloodbath, packed with the DNA of Dickens, Plumbey, Tolstoy and Mobyly, chronically these writers published chapters of future novels in popular magazines that paid well and built the nation's audiences. Book apprenticeship may far surpass these days, but the pull of professional literature is still strong.

Norwich resident **MARCELLA MUNSTER** has put a modern spin on the serial format. Since March, she's been posting one page per day of her novel *The Bloodbath Diaries* on a custom website she calls *Bloodbath*.

An admissions counselor at Ithaca College, Munster planned for the site when she learned a colleague complaining that her favorite soap opera had been canceled, depriving her of a daily respite from reality. Munster, who has a master's degree in creative writing, was working on a short story at the time and realized she could pen the novel by elongating her narrative and breaking it down into bite-size morsels. She wanted each page to make sense on its own, as part of the whole.

"I had to create almost my own literary genre," Munster recalls. "There would be these stand-alone pages with a beginning and end but at the same time it had to fit into the bigger picture."

After three months of planning, Munster paid a web-design firm to build her a site that looks like a book page and allows readers to flip back and forth among pages. She can add multiple pages onto the site, which is programmed to release a new one each day.

Without an editor, however, the process has been a little unusual. "I don't even look at it in the morning, because it's too nerve-wrecking to see my errors,"

Munster says when testing much of the material but not fixing them on the website. "I feel like it would be bad play," she explains.

The confines of a single page have proved difficult for storytelling. For instance, it's hard to introduce new characters, write extended dialogue or include rich descriptions of people and places, because Munster has to save room for plot and a narrative arc. But she gained a modicum of breathing room by shortening and reworking certain queries from other writers looking to self-publish.

From the start, Munster planned to end the story after a year when moving to that schedule, but admits she has tough to keep up with the page-a-day mandate. Also, "I'm getting a little old," she acknowledges. "The story should have ended by now."

Munster doesn't want to press the novel when it's finished, insisting that it wouldn't be good to read as a traditional way. Instead, she intends to write a few page-a-day short stories. "I love this middle age," she says. "I think part of it is just my personality; the ADD is so helpful to that."

The project definitely got Munster noticed. Shortly after starting *The Bloodbath Diaries*, she signed a contract to write a holiday novel. Mrs. Claus and the School of Christmas Spirit, which come out next month. ☐

Inna Claus and the School of Christmas Spirit by Marcella Munster. In This Partner Media Homecoming print on demand, 103 pages, \$2.00. www.bloodbath.com

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STATE of THE arts

James Kochalka Publishes a New Compilation, and Ends the Daily Comic Strip "American Elf"

BY PAMELA POLSTON

For his fourth collection of "American Elf" comic strips, which covers 2005 through 2011, Burlington cartoonist JAMES KOCHALKA printed an introduction in nine panels. It reads: "The book collects four years of the daily comic strip that I drew in my sketchbook. But it's more than just a comic strip; it's love, Random Disaster, Freeling out! The poetry of life. Yes, I still I guess it's just one tiny four years. Thanks for letting me share it with you. That's all."

Kochalka is a "local" guy, but he had a worldwide fan base, both for his cartoon works and his quirky rock music in JAMES KOCHALKA SUPERVISOR, no big accomplishment. Last week that "American Elf" — think "Family Circus" for the indie set — will come to an end on December 31, preceded meetings around the globe.

"I've been getting a lot of emails from all over the world begging me not to stop," Kochalka says. "One fan wrote to say he sat down and read all 14 years." Others,

Kochalka adds, simply thanked him for what he has produced.

Yes, 21 years' worth of daily cartoons — 25, including 2012. Kochalka gave up the strip for a full year in its early days, since then, he thinks he has only stopped one day around the time his dad died last September. Most of those strips are compiled in books; all are archived on Kochalka's website. Seven Days has been running one each week for nearly a decade.

Why quit now? "I feel like I created a great work of art, but I felt it couldn't wait right to include my family without their consent," Kochalka says he has finally decided, referring to his wife, Amy, and their two young sons. Instead, the story-style comic documents life with his family friends and cat, from mundane moments to mighty reflections to lightbulb-going-off epiphanies. Another factor, Kochalka says, is that "Elf" has consumed my mind for 14 years, I've hardly thought about anything else."



That's an exaggeration, of course, one that goes of time he has produced other print comics, work for publications, musical recordings and an animation series titled *JaponiCats*, among other projects. He's also taught at the *COMIC FOR CANTON* workshops in White River Junction and here and there. "Vermonter's first ever cartooning classes," Kochalka said, having a headstand and did. But still, drawing a strip every single day has required a special kind of discipline. Kochalka notes that, when his family goes camping in the summer, "I'm drawing *Knott* in the woods."

Of "American Elf," he says, "these 18 years, it's been the great joy of my life, but

it's also been incredibly painful" as he's aged and experienced life's ups and downs — and chronicled many of them in black and white — yet sometimes been emotionally difficult, Kochalka says. But the creator is much part of the reward — such as his recent selection as one of the best 20 web comics of 2012 by Paste magazine.

Kochalka says he's still about getting his name, "I feel like I had to make some decisions [that] weren't meant to be a life sentence. I just wanted to leave something about who I am to be a human being."

And did he? "I've been so busy drawing it, I'm not sure," Kochalka admits with a laugh.

Will get a chance to assess, perhaps, in the New Year. Kochalka says he wants to continue contributing a weekly strip to Seven Days, and he expects he'll "experiment with a couple different things before settling down." He considers he may eventually decide to return to "American Elf" — "if it's what I want." Stay tuned. ☐

American Elf: the Collected (Cartoon Books) by James Kochalka January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2011 Top Shelf Productions 384 pages \$24.95

A Vermonter's Boxing Book Details the Language of the Ring

BY DAN BOLLES

The language of sports has a long tradition of baffling even the pro-

fei lexicon. From base-

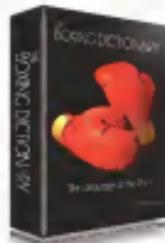
ball to appropriate terms such as "walk off" and "a house run" to describe, respectively, failure and success. Boxing, in its various forms, gives us the notion of "crossing the finish line" to denote reaching a goal that that date goes ge-

ometrically well. Cougars are "scoring" while the "bully" or perhaps you overlaid with the cologne and with home done. Way to "drop the bell."

In his new book *The Boxing Dictionary*, first-time Vermont author **JOHN KELK** sets out in painstaking detail the colorful

"language of the ring." Written under the pen name John E. Johnson, Kelk's honey-weight tome — it's essentially a nearly 400-page glossary — offers a blow-by-blow account of more than slang and jargonistic parlance that could be a handy reference for anyone hoping this. It could also be a guide for novices to the sport. Like, for instance, Johnson's wife.

Kelk, 61, began compiling what would become the book's first entries 10 years ago. Newly married at the time, he was attempting to introduce his blushing bride to boxing, for which he had developed a passion as a lad growing up in Wethersfield



Conn., N.H. That was thanks to his dad, who was a boxer in the Navy.

"He agreed to watch some fights with me and was able to understand what was happening," says Kelk, who works as a substance-abuse counselor in a recovery center in his Jersey home. "But he had a hard time understanding what the hell the announcers were calling them."

So Kelk wrote down a few key terms and their definitions, as the couple watched more fights over the years,

that last grew and grew; from 40 to 400 to the more than 4,000 entries his book contains.

Kelk's labor of love was indeed laborious and the result is a one-of-a-kind look at a sports vernacular that has suffered the common tongue with terms such as "trackout" and "on the rapier" — and, of course, encyclopedic handbooks of other portions of jargon likely to be mysterious to the uninitiated.

"The language of boxing is fascinating," Kelk says. "I hope this book helps more people appreciate just how rich it is." ☐

The Boxing Dictionary by John E. Johnson (Cartoon Books) 367 pages (\$24.95). Available at bookstore.vtvt.org and amazon.com.

OVER-THE-COUNTER CANNABIS

[Re: "Could Medical Marijuana Help Endorse Before They Light Up?" November 28] That law has so many issues. A limit of 1000 patients? Since when does the government control how sick people can become? This medicine needs to be over the counter, plain and simple. We don't need the Department of Public Safety dictating how sick people should meet their medical needs. we need doctors being able to have honest conversations with their patients about how cannabis can reduce their dependence on other medicines with fewer side effects. When there are fewer "pharmaceuticals" in the public's medicine cabinet, there will be fewer bodies in the morgue. Cannabis never killed anyone. It's safer than alcohol and tobacco, both of which are taxed and regulated.

Merc Linkhart
Burlington



evaluate the joint of this type of indoor weed is equivalent to driving a small car for 10 miles.

It's encouraging that there are so many well-meaning folks pushing for legalization when success would translate into colossal increases in greenhouse-gas emissions and other pollution. Indoor cultivation isn't even on the table. This, ostensibly, is because it would be too difficult to keep the teenagers away but I suspect the real reason is money. Indoor growing only yields one crop per season — indoors, apiece of five or ten.

It's not logical if you still can't grow a plant outside. As long as the state tries to make money by passing laws, will we ever be free?

Merc Linkhart
Burlington

HOMES, NOT HOTELS

[Re: "With Shelters Full, a Record Number of Vermonters Are Living in Hotels," December 13] In response to your article on homelessness in Vermont, and the amount of money spent putting people up in hotels, it really does not take



Ashley Janyk and her daughter, Emma, whose mother is homeless, in front of a Burlington hotel where they are staying. *The Times Argus*

a genius to figure out that the money could be so much better spent at building actual homes for the people that are currently in homeless situations. Just take a look around your town and neighborhood at the number of vacant buildings, houses for sale that just sit there and spaces that used to be in business that sit empty. These spaces could be renovated and redone to give low-income and at-risk families permanent places to live and raise their children. There are movers, and yet nobody with any power or in place sensible solutions seems to care enough to make permanent housing a reality for our neighbors living in a motel for any length of time is not a solution. It is a band-Aid that will not fix anyone the safety and stability they need. Wake up! We need more affordable housing in Vermont so that families don't have to ever become homeless in the first place. Places like COSTS are not in every town in Vermont, and COSTS cannot help all the people. Nobody deserves to be without a safe, warm, comfortable place to live. Nobody. It is a shameful thing when families in our own nation have to be without a place to call their own.

Annette Heers
Burlington

STOP PROTECTING SEX OFFENDERS

[Re: "Dogs mostly repudiated that the Times Argus hired a convicted sex offender to cover police, courts and high school sports" [Star Class, "Offender Busted," November 18]] Inconceivable that neither would check criminal records of those selected to cover these particular stories, since a press pass gives almost unlimited access. Was the convicted sex offender allowed access to school locker rooms?

According to the story, Eric Blodell didn't request required permission from his probation officer for contact with minors. *The Times Argus*

subsequently ran an article defending its hiring of Blodell, stating, "This is an incredibly well-supervised and restricted situation by the judge, the probation officer and a therapist. I am not going to accost [guys that prosost, not willing to participate in it and give it a chance]." Really? Allowing a convicted sex offender to report on sex crimes is outrageous on the part of the judge, probation officer and therapist.

A few years ago, a Vermont girl was raped and murdered by a sex offender whom the government considered to be a rehabilitated sex offender. It is inconceivable, irresponsible and outrageous to send a convicted sex offender where victims might appear to get their justice. No wonder Vermont is becoming a sex-offender haven. Sen. Dick Stempel and his Senate Judiciary Committee protect the judges that inflict violence. Vermont judges are not as awareable to those that pay them, they are answerable to a government that cares more about sex offenders than victims.

Brent Deyo is becoming the newspaper to read. We should thank it with our support.

Laura Bruckner
MATERIALITY CENTER

BIG MISTAKE

[Re: Gary Kowalski is right in pointing to factory meat farms as a major source of greenhouse-gas emissions [Feedback, "Driven from Big Meat," December 13]] However, to leap from there to saying that 250.org is "morally and ecologically sound" is simply magnified. The two margins of action — big oil and big meat — lie in no way naturally exclusive. If we are to turn around the behemoth of the corporate world in its rush to destroy life on Earth, we need to work together.

You speak out and encourage others to speak out. Change your life and encourage others to do the same. However, let's recognize that we are in the same struggle. Big oil's business plan involves extracting oil and burning enough fossil fuel to essentially destroy most life on the planet. Isn't that reason enough to organize and mobilize against them?

Kowalski should also has considerable intellect and passion at the most inspiring, not at Bill McKibben or the movement for fossil-fuel divestment.

Andrew Stenn
BURLINGTON

Dear Cecil,
People who take antidepressants often say they feel better but some researchers claim that's due to the placebo effect. If it is, aren't drug companies abusing depressed people by getting them to buy pricey, less-drug? On the other hand, if antidepressants genuinely make you feel better does the feeling last, and are they addictive?

Anonymous

Some question it. Are antidepressants bad because they don't work, or bad because they do? We can eliminate a few possibilities right off the bat. For starters, if I'm in the antidepressant business, I'm not about to sell a product that permanently cheers people up. What I want is something they need on a regular basis, like a nice glass of wine—an antidepressant that works on a lot of levels, including basically for the wisecracker and therapist. So for everybody else, I take it you're more interested in pills.

First, some statistics, the significance of which will become clear by and by:

- One in nine Americans over age 12 takes antidepressants, including one in four women between 40 and 59. Since the early 1990s antidepressant use has increased 400 percent across all age groups. Sure, there have been some bumps in the road over the past 20 years, but nobody's going to tell me life hasn't become 400 percent more depressing.



- One American in 12 takes antidepressants despite having no depressive symptoms whatsoever.
- Less than a third of those taking antidepressants have had a checkup with a mental health professional in the last year, and one in seven has been on antidepressants for more than a decade.
- Nearly three-quarters of all antidepressant prescriptions are written without any diagnosis of a psychiatric problem. Primary-care physicians are much more likely to prescribe these drugs than specialists—one in 10 visits to a primary-care physician results in a new prescription or refill. In nearly 60 percent of those office visits where there's no

psychiatric diagnosis, there's also no specific psychiatric complaint from the patient. Summing up, it's fair to say that a common attitude in the medical community is basically take your Prozac and don't come back. People are none too happy about this. Nearly a quarter of respondents to a joint glucose survey said the chance they'd get put on an unusual medication they might not set their doctor they left unopposed.

With that in mind, we're now prepared to grapple with the possibility raised in your letter, namely that all those mothers' little helpers, so cute the old nuns, don't actually help them what's what.

- A review of 179 studies involving more than 14,000 depressed patients

found placebo elevated symptoms in 15 percent, while antidepressants reduced them in 46 percent. Psychotherapy alone reduced symptoms in 47 percent, about the same as antidepressants but usually at higher cost. Most of all was combining antidepressants and psychotherapy, with a 59-percent success rate.

A review of 96 studies published from 1993 to 2006 concluded the placebo effect was likely responsible for at least part of the improvement seen in patients taking antidepressants. Another review pegged it at 84 percent. What's more, the placebo effect appears to be growing over time.

Some research says there's no indication here at all. A European study of "active placebos" (where the placebo itself contains the drug's side effects) found no significant difference between placebo and antidepressants. The latter were just particularly persuasive fakes.

So why are antidepressants prescribed as often? We find a clue in a review of 50 antidepressant clinical trials submitted to the FDA. And bear in mind, the FDA sets a low bar—it requires that clinical trials show a significant difference between a drug and a placebo but doesn't limit the number of users, enabling drug manufacturers to keep

rolling the dice until they get the desired result.) The review found that, on average, antidepressants didn't meet the criteria for "clinical significance"—in other words, technically they didn't do anything, except for one group of patients rated as extremely depressed.

We further note that (1) The U.S. population is aging, and elderly patients require more medical attention, among other things for depression; and (2) the percentage of primary-care physicians has dropped significantly. In 1982 about half of doctors were in primary care, now it's barely over 30 percent.

The upshot is that primary-care doctors have higher patient loads and less time to spend per patient. Since everyone nowadays expects the doctor to do something, and since antidepressants evidently work for the extremely depressed and make many others feel better if only through the power of suggestion, the default response is to prescribe drugs for anyone with a mental ailment — next patient, please.

The situation is likely to get worse. The number of primary-care physicians entering the field between now and 2020 looks expected to keep up with demand. How all this will play out in the face of rising health care costs and the Affordable Care Act remains to be seen, but for a lot of people, pills might be all they ever get.

If there's something you need to get straight, Cecil Adams can address it. Drop him a line on any topic. Write Cecil Adams at the Chicago Reader, P.O. Box 1200, or visit www.chicagoreader.com.



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What's up with
Richmond's
sheet-
enshrouded
bridge and the
Beltline's white
foam blocks?**

BRUNO PICARD

High-speed travel around Vermont generates more WiFi questions than all other activities combined. That's not surprising, given that namely highway infrastructure projects at 65 miles per hour affords drivers little opportunity for clear inspection and plenty of range for connectivity. [Learn more.](#)

Such is the case with the Checkered House Bridge on Route 2 in Rachmon. For example, the 380-foot metal truss bridge, the longest span of its kind in

Vermont, has been partially draped in balsam, punctuate like natural. Whatever is happening beneath the boughs and white curtains is concealed from travellers who cross the bridge, as well as those who drive past on nearby Interstate 89.

Are the stripes a new window treatment for downtown Richardson? Vermont's answer to Springfield's party shack? Or a covered-bridge installation by Christo, the avant-garde artist famous for wrapping Berlin's Reichstag, among other structures, in fabric?

The answer is nothing remotely that ugly, though it does involve painting. Their roots, to be used, according to Carolyn Carlson, a structural design project manager with the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Over a two-day period in late June, the Oldfield House Bridge — so named for the distinctive checkered brick pattern on the nearby farmhouse that's now the kitchen Table Bistro — was cut in half and widened by 13½ feet so larger vehicles could traverse it. The \$13,000-plus project, more than 20 years in the making, is believed to be the first one to widen a town bridge to this way. Carlson says new that the stones have been welded back together, and a new bridge deck installed, the entire structure needs repainting.

Far enough. But why does the historic bridge, which was built in 1829 to replace an earlier one damaged in the great flood of 1821, need to be enveloped in shrouds? As Carlson explains, workers must first remove several coats of decades-old lead paint that still covers the steel beams. Lead paint, which is especially hazardous to small children, was outlawed in 1978 under a Vermont law adopted in 1966 and revised in 2006; workers must

protect the public and the environment from exposure to lead dust.

Behind the kilovolt curtains, massive hoppers keep the temp a balmy 90 degrees, Carlson explains, allowing operators to continue working in the winter. The notes, however, that once the first half of the bridge is completed, the second half will be wrapped in considerably smaller increments, owing to concerns about filling some cavities in the denser

The finished half of the bridge, which has just been painted green, is due to be unwrapped in the next week or two — just in time for the holidays.

A smaller but equally pending project has been in the works along Route 127 in Burlington, just north of the Ethan Allen Bicentennial. For the past few weeks, the east side of the Biltmore has been lined with hundreds of large, white foam blocks, such as the ones a snowman recently evoked and road crews have

wiring the bike path from permanently
disrupts the nest.

On a recent weekday morning, site engineer Judge Corrigan of the firm Engineering Ventures, explains how the underground stabilization system works. Cheaper and more lightweight than steel, soil-stabilized and other ECR materials, the soil-gravel-and-other ECR materials, the soil-gravel-and-other ECR materials, each block of which weighs just 330 pounds, provide a solid structure on which the bike path will rest. Once they're assembled in place like bricks, the entire structure will be covered in plastic, buried in dirt, and then covered again.

The blocks, which have been used for years in the southern United States for bridge abutments, road beds, on embankments and retaining walls, were only recently discovered by northern road crews, Carter says. This isn't the first time they've been used in Vermont, Carter says—a few blocks added to possible reconstruction projects.



bom moving the blocks onto the nearby bike path, which is below road level. What gives?

Steve Goodland, Burlington's public works director, refers to the objects by a highly technical-sounding name: "big foam blocks." Made from a type of polystyrene, the blocks are being used to shore up 300 linear feet of eroded bike path and embankment, starting at the Winnona River, which, according to Goodland, has collapsed and been repaired numerous times since the Bellline was first constructed in the late 1990s.

"It's been fishing from the go-to," he says. "That was our last best hope."

The very property that makes environmentalists revile Styrofoam clamshells is what renders these geoform blocks ideal for reconstruction work. They don't absorb water, they don't rot.

Should Vermonters expect to see more of the big white domes cluttering the roadside? Maybe, maybe not. Shelter Enterprises of Cobleskill, N.Y., manufactured the blocks. According to the Albany Times Union, the cushion plant was destroyed in a fire in September, forcing 140 employees out of work.

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Turning Pages

BY KEENAN WALSH



Doug Downe is a man of halves. He plays pool, he has driven across the country visiting small museums in small towns; he works on his old farmhouse in Weston, and, finally, he has been spending much of his time buying large boxes of books at auctions and sifting through them, looking for the old volumes on Vermont history.

NAME:

Doug Downe

TITLE:

Shelburne

JB

Vintage
bookseller

At first blush, it's confounding that a Philadelphia native would have such an interest in the history of that state. Downe, now 61, came to attend graduate school at the University of Vermont in 1975 and "had every intention of leaving, but never did," he says. What happened? Well, he fell in love.

He had fallen for the physical beauty of Vermont several years earlier, while waiting at a stop sign in St Albans like it was in graduate school that, Downe says, he grew to love the people of the state, too. "The independence streak in Vermonters," he explains, "the fact that

they'll think for themselves. And their closeness to the Earth."

When he graduated, Downe and his wife moved to Weston. He spent 22 years working for the Department of Education, rising through the ranks to become director of the Safe and Healthy Schools program.

Downe is now retired, but he's nothing if not busy. In addition to playing pool with the state chess-championship team, he cross-country skis, sits in an armchair and buys literally tens of thousands—generally for \$2 to \$5 a book—book clusters across Vermont at auction shows and splits the profits with him.

These days caught up with Downe—who might be the most independent of Vermont's independent booksellers—at a craft fair near Vt. Vintage Inspired Lifestyle Market in Burlington, where he has been selling some of his vast collection.

SEVEN SAYS: Where did your love of books come from?

DOUG DOWNE: You know, my own family genealogy has been Vermont, and I have a relative who collected books back in the 1900s. He had 40,000 volumes in a library in Massachusetts. So it's in my blood.

SD: And this particular interest in Vermont history—how did that start?

DD: I always enjoyed it. I'm a lifetime member of the Vermont Historical Society that I really started nine years ago. I was an ancestor of some older people's forebears' content, and, in the late—his grandparents had divorced and left all their belongings there. I bought the entire contents of the barn and ended up with several boxes of books. I was talking with someone who said, "You know, if you take them to a used-book dealer they'll give you money for them"—so that was really the beginning of that book adventure.

SD: What's the most valuable thing you've ever found?

DD: Well, something just happened recently that's never happened to me before. People often ask me, "Have you ever found anything so old in the books?" And I answer, "I don't just put that past me. I found myself I got a book, and I was going thought it to price it, and there was a card there. I opened the card, and there was a \$50 bill. It was sad, though—it was a sympathetic.

The most valuable book that I've found is...well, thoughts about a foreign language

books at an auction in Brattleboro. The auctioneer knew I collected books, and I said, "Oh, I'll buy them for \$2." A few days later, I drove through Winooski, Vermont. There's a small bookstore there called Bohemian Books [61 Gallery], and I know the owner. I took the box in and said, "I don't know if you're interested in these, they're foreign language." And he said, "Sure! I'll take a look." He found eight books in German or Norwegian and offered me \$80 for them. So I said, "Well, maybe I better go look these up." I went back, pulled one book out of the box—it was a 19th-century leather-bound book, in French, by an author named Marcell— and it turned out it was worth \$1,000 just the one book! And I had paid \$2 for the whole box.

SD: Have you ever come across a book you couldn't part with?

DD: That's happened twice. I've found books that were the first I ever read, you know, as a kid. One was a thing called Dog Stories. I got the book in a box, and I recognized it immediately. And another one was...well, remember when you used to order books from Scholastic when you were in school? That one was called Skeleton Crew. So you know, you have that experience where you recognize immediately, and it takes you right back to when you were 8 or 9 years old. So I still have those.

SD: How do you think the used-book market has changed over the years?

DD: One of the bookstores I know doesn't have a storefront anymore—he's already online now. In the bad economic times, being able to sell a book online has really made a difference. It's really made it possible to keep doing that.

Not as far as Kindle and Nook and e-books—I think some people just like having the book in their hands. In some ways, you could say the actual book might become more valuable because there'll be less and less of them. I mean, the whole thing is hobbies is "How many is it?" And there's not going to be a lot of books around, so maybe do the ones that are around, if you can keep them in good shape, I think they're actually going to be more valuable. ☀

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Fiction: *Hidden View*

BY BRETT ANN STANCIL



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WINTER READING ISSUE

In the new spring green one year, my life clef in two. The break happened as simply as walking across a brook, wandering through the woods with its gone of brilliant spring beauty, a woodland carpet of trout lilies. When I used to return, the brook had swollen into a raging river, thaw-fed, and I would drown if I tried to cross. The roar of the river pounded my ears on the other side, outside that forest I had wandered into, my parents, at their long log house I had lived on the evers of my 19 years, came on with their lives. I stood on my head boats in the unfamiliar forest, coated with the sweet and almost musk odor of emerging life, newly green with

that head season of spring. Winter was not behind and would not be far along, either I wore only a light blouse to shield me from the weather, and I was alone.

I didn't cry, didn't howl, didn't gnash my teeth in despair. I was as young then, so quite young I was only disturbed by the thrush song of a hermit thrush, robins chattering at their nest, the delicate lace pattern of acorn-shelled leaves. Youth, naturally, passes.

My parents had found that, as, if they ever relaxed their own poise. When I was old enough to walk to elementary school, my life took on a different pattern. I was no longer a child, encircled merely with animals and what clothes I

needed to wear; with the play I created with my dolls. I new left the house on my own, as my parents did each day, going out to meet the world and then returning. The world out there was filled with sounds and colors that never intruded on dreams of off-white walls, low-sap carpet.

My parents were quiet people, reticent and withdrawn. My mother laundered and sewed and wore the same folded A-line dress, year after year; cotton/polyester blend in summer; cardigan to winter, pink collar and my father's and my hair and cheese sandwiches for foods, and then walked the three blocks to Dixieville Water & Light, where she was an acutary in the back office. My father

Winter Reading Issue!

walked at George Ball Bearings and Co., doing what, precisely, I never knew. He didn't speak of it. At home, after dinner, they sat in those respective shadowed rooms, each under a lampshade obliquely yellowed with age. They were Mauded people, doled down, their spirits submerged.

Very occasionally, once a year, maybe, I would hear them in the night, arguing; their voices twining, broken, bitter, slavering at each other. What it was, I didn't know. The next morning, they would be the same, stilled, at their usual state of暮.

We lived in a neighborhood in a small town, but even there, my parents faded into the background of the townsfolk's life. We had few visitors, so overnight guests had been rare in those days. I guessed I had been a troublesome conception and a bader pregnancy. My mother was a single child and her parents had passed before my birth. My father's parents had divorced when he was a child, and his father and an older sister had moved to Iowa, to Newton. His mother was stilling in a nursing home and died when I was a child. To her funeral, I brought a small vase of wild geraniums, these blue blossoms like fragile downy dots to a nest of green leaves. "These," my mother said in disbelief. We spoke about not all of relations.

An image from my childhood stands as a token of these years. One summer evening in my teenage years, I stood in the back screen door of the kitchen. The leaves in the maple tumbled in a warm breeze. Cricket song. The lawn was freshly mown, its sharp sweet sound wafting through the screen's many pores. Down the lawn, straight ahead, I heard laughter. Three teenagers I knew by sight and not name were walking and laughing, the air of one boy around a girl's shoulders. I longed to be with them, begged with a face as primal and urgent as the throb of passion itself, secretly to live in these first months a member in climate offers. They laughed again, I drew back from the screen so as not to be seen, not to be noticed or mocked or made a minority of.

The library became my haven. I yearned to speak Italian, to read Latin or ancient Greek. I thought to that the books room, smallish Austin rooms, like Rutherford's, across the Avenues, to have poetry read to me, to drink wine and eat cheese. I had dug myself. I ached to sleep and walk under starry skies. I wanted to fall in love and to be loved, in return.

I graduated from high school. As they could not decide what to do with me, my parents enrolled me in a community college, general studies. The college lay on my father's route to work, and he drove there each morning, then retrieved me at 3:30 sharp. "The courses they chose fit into schedule I supposed. It did not occur to me to do otherwise."

I was 19 then, and evinced my youthful drawing through my fingers as bushes bushed back. In the car those days, we said little, nothing of any importance. I gazed out the window, watching the green fields, the rambling sunflowers, the snowy leaflessness past by. A great rock, a glacial stone from across all the states still坐立于 all over everything, pressed on my chest. I would go down into the earth and never rise.

Then, this:

In May, I was invited to a graduation party by some girls I knew from high school. I had no classes. The party was given for men girls two hours over. Their father, Jim Hetherington, boasted he was going to give his girls the biggest party the country had ever seen or would ever see. I had heard about this party from my mother, who had heard about it at work, and faintly imagined it as stupendous. The girls who invited me were behind me in a grocery store line. They had an extra seat at the table and would come for me at six, the next Saturday.

I had never gone to a party, had never even been asked my parents' noddle, as if they had never considered the possibility so I went.

I was the only girl who wore a skirt and sandals. Everyone else was in pants and t-shirts. I trembled like a badger looking at my peers and mothering, "Look at that! Imagine A skirt at a party!" The Hetheringtons' farm was the largest in the country, an immense sprawl of fields around two long cow barns and an old, monstrously high barn. The house was the original farmhouse that had been renovated and added on to, numerous times. The party picked through the windows I wondered along the tables weighted with food. The girls I seemed weird had dispersed into the jostling, noisy crowd.

My heart shattered tight. Whatever I had wanted or expected to find here, I would not. I ventured toward the party, around the back of the windowless haybarn. The grass around the house and barn had been cut the day before and revealed a sweet domestic scene. Behind the barn a hay field stretched out and it dropped suddenly into the black stable. The hay bales hung out yet, and in the evening breeze the long silos swayed and rippled, golden-green.

I lay back and let my elbows take my weight. The party's noise dissolved to radio static. To the overhead to my left, the singlehanded chittering. A locate-friend streak of hair over my eyes and across my lips. Strands of clouds, crystal white on one side, tumultuous and dark on the other, swirled around the sky.

A man with shoulders outside came around the barn's side. He held a yellow rag garnish and silly at his disoriented head. I sat up. He squatted beside me. "Hal Hartdick?"

"Pern," I answered. "Tim Pern." He sat down, plucked a violet nestled in the low grass, then pointed it away. "My fern is hidden. You know it?"

"I did. When I was in elementary school my father had sometimes driven the back roads on Saturdays, touring those meandering lanes and winding our way back toward home. We packed sandwiches and stopped at general stores for sodas. Your mother needs some time," he would say. "She's gone all week at that office, and then the house and all." When I was an early teenager those days dissolved away, as if there was no such need for them anymore, and Hal disappeared into the library, instead.

Holiday Inn was at the end of a high dirt road that flattened out at the top and then sank down behind a ridge. I vaguely remembered a current oil furnace, painted pink in grey leeks, and a barn, across the road, maybe, with HIDDEN VIEW painted black, faded now from nearly sootlessness. The hills loomed down the left, ringed at the

edges by a beltline of pines. We saw no one, heard no dogs, saw no tree swaying and doleful child. I asked my father who lived there, and he shrugged. He raised the car around and left.

"The farm over the ridge, at the end of the road?"

"Drew Ridge Road."

"I don't remember any bridges."

"No one does. They're all gone. The road has shifted. See the river, too, so dooh? He took up more stakes, set three heads apart neatly with his hands, and tossed them aside.

I studied my cup of lemonade. The ice had melted, leaving an unappetizing clump of pulp and sourgrapes. A beetle had appeared over the edge of my cup.

"Deserves that," he said.

We sat quiet still and worked at our drinks. A robin dipped over my hand, chattering furiously for a dozen seconds across the field. At his track, I sat on the passenger seat. A woodchipped tool sat on the floor as I sipped my tea and craned in dried mud. I wanted to reach down and break the mud off, see if I knew what was lost that had possessed. He leaned against the open door. He was as wide, as tall as an oak trunk. That staff snuffed out my mouth, I rolled through my thoughts. Two wings down from, landing up, through the woodshed at the momentous time, a game hen early and accomplishedly what I did not notice then. I thought I had no reason to treasure it.

Afterward, I lay for a long while on the chair-parked seat of his truck, that silver star on cracked my legs, but he bent the bushes of his hands under against the roadside dirt road. Faster and faster, my legs and knees and white in the open truck door. The steering wheel, true bone smooth with use and grace, was at my chest. My hands settling in my ribs, I looked up. Hanging in the woodshed just below the one where mud was, was the cat of the mouse. A broken tortoise, pale to hate, a grub surrounded by a cluster, ladybirds, at a hole I had sweetly called last, gnawed out either impatience, changing skins on my knees or the bedroom window. Oh, lovely Lady Moths. This night she was immensely delicate in that expanse of night light, a distorted wing of paper, or the frost on, her light but fragile tracery. I lowered myself up and she disappeared into darkness. This early in the night the stars were obscured by darkness.

Quickly, quickly, I was not tardy. ☺

This is the first chapter of *Third Arm Grammar*, novella I wrote in 2010. The author is a graduate of Marquette College and currently lives in Wisconsin where she and her family are homesteaders. Her website appears with this issue in *Wisconsin Library Review* and *Capitol Express*.

Winter
Reading
Issue!

Meet the Authors

Six local writers you may not have read yet—but should

BY MARCOT HARRISON, MEGAN JAMES AND PAMELA POLSTON

Q uick, name a Vermont author! We're guessing you said "Chris Colfer," "John Irving," or "Howard Frank Mosher." Maybe you thought of mystery names Author Major, Ressentisse man Jay Parini, past tense author of continuous action (get off! Myself), or Megan Mayhew Bergman, a Shaftsbury resident whose short story collection has drawn raves everywhere (seven days pasted her last novel). Finally, if you're among the kinds, perhaps even thousands, of Vermonters who have self-published, you may have said, "Um. And who's that writer?"



Dayna Lorentz, South Burlington, 35

Dayna Lorentz, East Valley author (see L, No Safety in Numbers), has an irresistible premise: on a busy Saturday, a biowarrior begins releasing a deadly virus through the air ducts of a shopping mall. When authorities quarantine the complex, teens find themselves trapped inside.

No Safety kicks off a trilogy, which means Lorentz's transformation of Asylum Mall into one of the places at just getting started. This isn't the first time she's turned disaster into a writing career (see No Safety reader); she started her publishing career with Dogs of the Damned City, a trilogy about the creatures it believed in Hurricane Katrina.

Lorentz was an attorney in New York and worked as a law clerk in Children's Juvenile Court, where she first came to Vermont, but since 2009 she has been "a pet owner, a parent," and a writer, she says. One of the lead dogs in her family is closely based on her own. As a writer for kids and teens, the visits schools and reads in schools with local readers; her favorite, a reading of No Safety at Shelburne Flying Pig Bookstore, was mobbed. "Being a writer is more than just me alone with my books," Lorentz

says. "It makes passerby all those aspects of reading out to your readership. There's been a lot of fun."

SEVEN DAYS: Why did you write this book?

DAYNA LORENTZ I was in a mall near where my husband and I were living at the time in New York, and we went to see a movie late at night. We were coming down the escalator, and they'd shut off the lights on the lower levels of the mall. There were people on these dark floors, just cowering in the darkness, basically it felt unsafe. I went home, opened a file on my computer and started making frantic notes on the idea.

SD: What's next for you?

DL The sequel, No Safety City (to come out in July 2013) will be a how-to write, and it's very much a memoir.

SD: Why do you write?

DL I went to an MFA program [at Bennington College] and studied adult literary fiction. When I discovered, as my mom, Ma, writing, it was just what spoke to me—writing was supposed to be. You open up to things like novels in poems, novels with drawings or sketches I thought, there's a bunch of publishing where they're really interested in new, crazy stuff like just an exciting place in publishing.

M.H.

But not all of Vermont's noteworthy writers have high-level profiles. In this annual Winter Reading Issue, we decided to profile six with recent publications whom you may not know specifically as "Vermont writers," or know at all. They're following the state in style— and in writing— directions.

And, yes, we realize there are many more. Watch for our reviews in the paper all year, including in our State of the Arts section.



L.E. Smith, Brookfield, 63

In 1972, Burlington's Carbarno's of the International Scorpion turned to the ground. L.E. Smith describes that in his new novel from local independent River Point Press, *Flowers' Interno*. "The red were indolent, sedate, tanners accustomed to tanning at windows shattered in the drift, a landscape of colored glass filled with."

Vond press like that anchors this novel inspired by a real series of mysterious fires in the Queen City Smoke's protagonist, Terrene Jones, already has "a phenomenal gyno-rama" on the beach when he stumbles into Carbarno's. His mother, a financially Catholic mother, Terrene experiences epiphany scenes as when he uses his dead father, a spiritual associate. Is her heart destined to be "Terrene Jones, churchmouse"? Or to discover the real purpose of the crime?

Like his novel, *Smells*, set across in the collection *View Cool Extra* are wildly, yet brilliantly, verbose. He didn't get his way with words in an MFA program.

"Not a good high school student" by his own admission, Smith discovered the books of Shirley James and Anthony Burgess as a teen. His adult training for writing encompassed a wide variety of jobs, including delivering mail in rural Vermont. "You

had to my different level and experience different things to discover what a multiplex world we live in," Smith says.

SEVEN DAYS: Why did you write this book?

LE SMITH I lived in Burlington in the '70s. I wanted to say there's a lot of us in it, but there's a lot of you in all the small you write. I was working a restaurant [Carbarno] late at night. I hung out at Writers and met all these crazy characters. This was the original *Nectar*, before it got spliffed up. It was not a happy town back then; it was a wild place. Punk music was starting to kick down around downtown as far as these churches, and they never really found out who did it.

SD: Is writing your full-time job?

DL For a normal English teacher I figured enough is enough, I just want to write. Now I major at Vermont Technical college with the TATIO program in the afternoon and write in the morning.

SD: Which next for you?

DL I have a novel coming in the spring [also, *Smells*] about the murder of John Lennon in New York City I was working at a security guard at the Metropolitan Museum when Lennon was shot.



M.H.



Castle Freeman Jr., Newfane, 68

Used to travel with him with to Newfane in 1972, Castle Freeman worried that he hadn't lived enough to be a writer but something clicked when he got to Vermont, and he hasn't stopped writing since.

"I can take you to the spot, on a dirt road in a neighbouring town, where I was walking a couple of days after we arrived in the state when, conveniently, my life-time lack of interesting content or useful experience seemed to be an obstacle to writing," writes Freeman in an author bio.

He was born in Texas, grew up on Chicago's South Side and went to college in New York, but is now mostly stories, essays and commentary — which have appeared in *Vermont Public Radio* and in *Vermont Life* and many other publications — Freeman writes such a keen sense of rural Vermont, you'd swear he's a native.

His latest book, *Island Attorneys*, is a collection of 12 short stories — all previously published, some written as many as 20 years ago — about life in a fictional rural



Vermont community. Freeman has long wanted to compile these stories in a book, but he couldn't find a publisher until he connected with the Concord Free Press, which publishes five books (and e-books) for sale. When readers request a free book, they pledge to make a donation to a charity or other cause "that for my little book, we've had over 200 separate contributions for Irene [recoveries] and other causes," Freeman says.

SEVEN DAYS: How does it feel to give away your writing for free?

CARLIE FREEMAN JR. It feels good to do it, because I'm giving readers, which I was not getting as it was for this book. I'm giving reviewers and attention, so in that way it's been great for me.

SD: What's your day job?

CF: At this point my day job is freelance writing. I haven't always made a living that

Jon Clinch, Ludlow, 58

When Jon Clinch decided to self-publish his new book, the news made it to the Style blog of the *Washington Post*. The paper had honored Clinch's two previous novels — *Fish* and *Kings of the Earth*, both published by Random House — as its best-of-the-year lists. Why, writer Jon Clinch asked, would a well-reputed literary novelist turn his back on the industry?

"Big publishing has really become a孟household industry," Clinch tells *Seven Days*. Instead of finding the next *Jifty Shades of Grey*, "Publishers have given up interest in the outliers writer." Though *G. the Spy* Magazine, put *Kings of the Earth* on its summer reading list, the book came in too late to cash in on that recommendation. "No one was talking about it anymore, and it vanished," Clinch says. "You're lucky, you get a month's worth of support [from a publisher]."

Many writers shy away from selling their own work, but not Clinch, who spent 30 years in advertising. Last December, he experimented with self-publishing by putting out a speculative novel, *What Came After*, under



the pen name Sam Wharton, at a few Amazon Kindle bestseller lists.

Clinch's new novel, *The Thief of Auschwitz*, which he'll publish on January 15, returns to a historical-tale vein. It's an accessible, emotionally compelling role that likely appeals to Holocaust fans.

The narrator is Max Rosen, an elderly, reclusive artist whose family was sent to Auschwitz when he was 10. The story of how his parents kept him alive there is a testament to the powers of both love and art.

When it comes to publishing, Clinch sees himself as the literary equivalent of a Vermont innkeeper; he says he designed his own red-and-white cover and did everything except actually being the publisher, because that would just be silly.

SEVEN DAYS: Why did you write this book?

JON CLINCH: For a long time I've been reading the first-person accounts of Auschwitz, like Night by Elie Wiesel. I come from a Methodist background, and my

wife I worked as a proofreader, a copy editor, as a regular old editor for book publishers, for anyone who would pay really.

SD: What inspired you to write these stories?

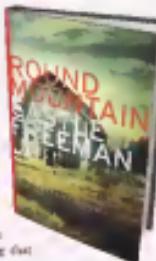
CF: I think that the setting is paramount to me and always has been. That kind of it what gets me started. I've never succeeded in creating interesting and authentic settings for these stories. You do that far better by simply describing how by the people you use to populate your stories. Everything works together to get the spirit of the place.

There's one character, Homer Hatch, who's in all the stories. I just kind of liked him. I didn't want to part from him completely at the end of the [first] story, so I went back and wrote some more.

SD: What are you working on next?

CF: Since *Round Mountain*, I've written a new novel. It's very different, kind of a romance-comedy-type thing.

M.J.



wife is Jewish. Wendy [Clinch, his wife] remembers seeing tattoos on the wrists of some of her grandmother's friends. I wanted to understand that and deal with it.

The more I read, the harder it seemed to look at, because the history is just so gross, and the tales are just so monstrous. You ultimately begin to think, Atayne there's no way for me to get my mind around it. So I began to think, Maybe if I use the tools of fiction, I can find a way to write a book that will keep people's attention on it and make them want to keep looking.

SD: Is writing your full-time job?

JC: Yes, it is. It's a tough way to make a living, like any other form of art.

SD: What's a must for you?

JC: I'm really busy with that right now, but I have other projects in the pipeline, including one based loosely on the story of my grandfather, who was a bad apple. I've called it *The Reluctant Stories of Louie*. For a book with that title, it's actually pretty funny.

M.H.

Gary Kowalski, Burlington, Vt.

Gary Kowalski, former pastor for some 20 years at the First Unitarian Universalist Society in Burlington, wrote seven books — “depending on how you count” he qualifies — before his latest, *Blessings of the Animals: Celebrating Our Kinship With All Creation*. Some of his works have centered on the intersection of science and spirituality, such as *Revolutionary Spirits*, which sought to demonstrate that our Founding Fathers’ views merged religion with the intellectual discoveries of the Enlightenment. But *Blessings* is by no means the first time Kowalski has focused on creation. Previous volumes include *The Soul of Animals* and *The Bible According to Noah: Theology As If Animals Mattered*.

Since leaving the UU two years ago, Kowalski has taken temporary interim minister jobs in South Burlington and Sturbridge, Mass. — specialized work with congregations in transition, he explains. He’s also found time to write and paint. One result is *Blessings of the Animals*, an engaging and often-humorous collection



of essays. Some stories are wonderful, others are scientific. Did you know, for example, that the first specimens were discovered in a saber-toothed tiger 92 million years old? That a Buddhist herdsman has protected his herd from disease with a meditation practice? One story is about Buchanan smut lady Lorraine, who painted 32 portraits of creatures that died in a Philadelphia zoo.

And then traveled to Africa to bury the paintings. (One of them graces the cover of Kowalski’s book.)

The book’s title derives from an unusual ceremony that Kowalski began at the beginning of his UU tenure in Burlington. Some people thought he was nuts the first time he invited one program to bring their pets to church — especially given the broad-new carpet that dogged him during the hymns, but as far as our four-legged guests have been the best-behaved members of the congregation.”

Robert Belenky, Hanover, N.H., 81

During and following his long career as a child psychologist, Bob Belenky has been a traveler. His journeys to Russia and China, in particular, were so frequent that a number of children in both those countries called him “Grandpa Bob,” he says. The trips weren’t casual vacations; Belenky’s objective was to “learn how young people may be helped to grow up when status quo [does] not suffice,” says the 81-year-old website.

In other words, he visited a lot of orphanages and other arrangements to family homes — some good, some bad, including shacks in a jungle somewhere from his frequent nomadism. His travels, generally with his wife and colleagues of 50-plus years, resulted in a number of books and hundreds of photographs — nearly all scanned on film.

Now Belenky has penned an entirely different kind of book: *Collective Memories of a Lost Paradise*, sounds like it could be about any number of things, and you read the subtitle: Jewish Agricultural Settlements in Ukraine During the Nazis and Right. “The idea

volume is not only a very specific slice of history, it’s a narrative,” Belenky’s father, a Russian Jewish emigrant to the United States, was involved in a progressive group in New York City that brought travelers to Jewish shtetls looking to work the land in collective farms post-Bolshevik Revolution. They were “not Bolsheviks or Communists,” Belenky writes, “but rather non-ideologically committed poor people seeking a better life.”

The lives of these farmers, and of the Americans who helped them, may be little known except to specialists, but the families involved, naturally lead the father’s stories while growing up in New York in the 1920s and ’30s in his own progressive and innovative

family (his objective — to record the memories of elders who survived the post-revolutionary Soviet Union, the Holocaust and World War II — is reflected here in poignant detail).

SEVEN DAYS: Why did you write this book?



ROBERT BELENKY
The motives were very personal — a really bad lead to die with my aging. Not only with my life but all sorts of ancestors. The most dramatic chapter for [our family] was the early Soviet period, when my father played a role in the Jewish farm settlements.

SD: Do you write for a living now?

RK: [Laughs.] If I did, I’d be dead of starvation. I write because I like to, and I take notes. I probably have a couple thousand pages of fiction written down, mostly short about how we could treat children at risk in the U.S.

SD: What will you write next, then?

RK: I’ve started, but don’t know if I’ll live long enough to finish. I want to pull together things from my experiences, partially about education, but also about human services, corrections and psychotherapy. Somewhere in there, I think there’s a message about how we could do things differently.

SD: How would you summarize that message?

RK: If someone asked me what I’ve learned, I’d probably say something like “Be nice to children.”

p.p

The 30-chapter collection, dedicated to Kowalski’s late dog, Monkey, does more than affirm and entertain; it convincingly supports the author’s contention that we humans are only part of a much larger, and wondrous, earthly family.

SEVEN DAYS: Several of your books focus on animals. Why?

GARY KOVALSKI: Animals or nature — the natural world in the broadest sense. You don’t have to scratch very deep to find a bit of nature experience in any religion. It plays out differently in different traditions, but for me it’s been more the focus of my spirituality.

SD: Will you get another pet?

GK: Ma, my lifestyle hasn’t enabled me to do that. I am more of a dog guy, though we had chickens before chickens were cool.

SD: What’s your next project?

GK: Nothing at the moment. I might write about children.

p.p



■ *Several Minutes* by Leslie Prentiss
Published by the Comerford Press.
160 pages. Price: Free at comerfordpress.com/

The “Tool of Activism” by Jon Gitchell, published in the Feb. 13, 2010, print edition, is now available online. Purchase date: January 17. Check with reading date: January 17, 2011. At Northeast Bookstore in Manchester Center and area books on February 18, 2 to 3 p.m. at the Book Hatch in Ludlow.

Messing of the Animals (Confronting Our Kinship With All Creatures) by Gary Kowalski (Lamont Books, 160 pages, \$18.95) will read on Thursday January 13, 7 p.m. at Proctor’s Books in Burlington.

An *Safe in Numbers* by Eugene Lenormand (Ballantine, \$17.95) will

Collective Memories of a Lost Paradise (Jewish Agricultural Settlements in Ukraine during the Nazi and Right) by Robert Belenky (Middletown Publications, 140 pages, \$16.95)



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It's All a Blurb

Who praised which Vermont book to the skies? Take our quiz and find out

BY MARGOT HARRISON

The book blurb is an undersung art form. We're speaking, not of back-cover descriptions (also, confusingly, often called blurb) but of those snappy quotes from fellow authors, celebrities and the like that appear in extra space just on a book's cover or website.

A blurb from a big name can make a best-seller. If Stephen King thought this book was a page turner, won't you? That's why publishers (or, increasingly these days, authors themselves) put piles of books in hopes of getting a comment such as "I couldn't put this down!" from someone with more clout than a mere toveret.

How much do blurbers really say about books? Enough for you to match the glowing soundbite with the work it recommends? To test your skills and knowledge of local lit, we've assembled (and often excerpted) 18 blurbs appearing on books authored by Vermonters in the past several years. Your challenge: To pair each one with its source. Some are a cinch; others will take guesswork. Read the answers on page 42.

We noticed three patterns as we read blurbs. First (and no surprise), the more famous you are, the more famous your blurb is likely to be second, Vermont politicians have a way with words; we didn't have to look far to find blurbs from former governor Jim Douglas, Sen. Patrick Leahy and State Sen. Philip Baruth (himself a published novelist). Third, not only is Brewster Frank Marker one of Vermont's most prominent writers, he's also our most blurbable book expert. That guy can blurb like nobody's business — and, bonus being what it is, his most recent book scores its own heavyweight blurb, from fellow Vermonter John Irving. Can you spot it? ☐



"If you have a special mountain in your life, you'll read it with understanding; if not, it will make you want to get one!"

①

"[Author] has emerged as a new voice in Vermont's impressive pantheon of creative writers and a powerful one."

⑤

"... sort of like a comic book by Virginia Woolf. You won't believe it until you read it — and you must!"

⑥

"[Author] has always been a gifted storyteller; this time there is an added euphoria in his storytelling — borne by the hope he and I share for now, we have dodged a bullet that thirty thousand American men don't dodge every year."

⑨

"Written with great humor, wisdom, common sense and compassion, [book title] is a uniquely American memoir by a very insightful American individualist. I loved it."

⑩

"Haunting and harrowing, [book title] offers enthralling suspense but also so much more: a richly poignant tale of the families we're born into and the ones we build ourselves."

⑬

"[Author] brilliantly draws us into a world that ultimately affirms one novel in which once again, love, friendship and the shining truth about who we really are restore an otherwise hopeless universe."

②



⑭

"[Book title] is an absolutely phenomenal read — The Andromeda Strain for the 21st century. Ladies and gentlemen, meet [author] — the new Michael Crichton."

"If you have ever eaten a tomato — or ever plan to — you must read [book title]."

③



"[Author] takes the Novel of Ideas in his two hands and then, in masterly fashion proceeds to rip its guts out."

④

"What I have to say about this book is very simple: Read it, please. Straight through to the end. Whatever else you were planning to do next, nothing could be more important."

"Once you've read the final chapter you'll want to take a drive up to [author's] farm and experience the delight of meeting him in person."

"Dear reader, you will never again pass an exit ramp in Vermont or elsewhere as once you did."

"[book title] is a beautifully written work of fiction, combining the unspeakable terror of a father's worst nightmare with a remarkable evocation of what must be one of the last best places in these United States."

⑯

"[In book title,] [author] artfully blends the wry with the witty, the sublime with the subliminal, and the endearing with the enduring."

"In this breakout novel, the personal and the political are remade metaphors for one another. With poetic, incisive and sometimes incandescent prose, [author] explores the tensions, fears and hopes of our world."

⑯

THE SOURCES

A. Ruth Reichl on Barry Estabrook's *Tomatoland: How Modern Industrial Agriculture Destroyed Our Most Alluring Fruit* (2012)

B. Diana Stellman on Alison Bechdel's *Are You My Mother? A Comic Drama* (2012)

C. Mark Pennington, on Sesame Street's "My Dad, What Have We Done?" (2011)

D. John Irving on Howard Frank Mosher's *The Great Northern Express: A Writer's Journey Home* (2012)

E. Barbara Kingsolver on Bill McKibben's *Earth: Making a Life on a Tough New Planet* (2010)

F. Vermont State Sen. Philip Baruth on L.E. Smith's *Thieves Jefferson* (2012)

G. Howard Frank Mosher on Stephen Russell Pyness' *Exit Walking: A Novel* (2011)

H. former Vermont governor James H. Douglas on Bill McKibben's *Golden Times: Tales Through the Sugarhouse Window* (2008)

I. Megan Abbott on Jennifer McManamy's *The One I Left Behind* (coming January 2013)

J. Howard Frank Mosher on Don Bledsoe's *The End of Day* (2009)

K. Bill McKibben on David Hinkins' *Munger Mountain: A Field Guide to Mind and Landscape* (2012)

L. Sen. Patrick Leahy on Steve Delaney's *Vermont Sessions: Reflections on the Rhythms of a Vermont Year* (2007)

M. Vermont poet laureate Sydney Lea on Neil Sheehan's *Vermont Exit Reminisce Poems* (2012)

N. Howard Frank Mosher on Beach Conger's *It's Probably Nothing: More Adventures of a Vermont Country Doctor* (2011)

O. Howard Frank Mosher on Sera J. Henry's *A Dark and Lonely Place* (coming February 2013)

P. Ted Thoreon James M. Tabers' *The Deep Zone* (2012)

Cryptic Connections

Jim Rader's word puzzles keep us guessing

BY NEGAN JAMES

It was around this time last year that Jim Rader — a former Parklawn City Clerk and community educator at *Bennie Bader's* congressional office — solved the word puzzle he had invented 12 years earlier: the Quip-Find. His book *Never Say Log: Find It With a Dictionary: The Quip-Find Book of Advice* covered word puzzle lovers to his satisfaction: being a quip, or known saying, is a letter-filled diagram paired with a traditional

cryptogram. Puzzlers use the diagrams to decode the cryptogram.

Happily for puzzle people, there's a lot more where that came from. In his second book, *When Elephants Fly: The 2nd Quip-Find Book of Advice*, Rader offers 100 new, wry and brain-boggling Quip-Finds. He has improved the puzzle designs in this book, omitting the cryptogram's blank lines for the big squares, and added the instructions

to make them easier to figure — all in response to criticisms he received since the first book came out: "We've got a few free ones here!" Rader says.

Quip-Finds are certainly a challenge — that puzzle lover has created approximately over 100 — but, with a little practice, they pay off. As Rader writes in the new book, "The best advice is both weighty and witty. And you have to search for it."

Here are two Quip-Find puzzles, plus instructions to get you started. Answers are on page 42. ☐

1 When rating an elephant: The 2nd Quip-Find Puzzle Book of Advice by Jim Rader. Crossword 160 pages \$9.95. Rader posts a new puzzle every day at blog.quipfind.com.

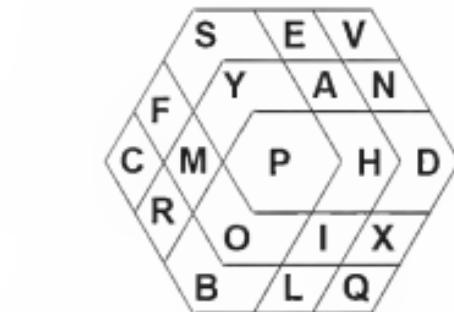


Directions: Find the familiar saying hidden in the diagram. It is spelled out in the cryptogram below where a different number represents each letter. The saying is also spelled out in the diagram as one continuous thread linking letters that are adjacent either side-to-side or corner-to-corner [check biggie], looping back to where it started and so on.

Start by guessing a word that fits in the cryptogram and see if it spells out the diagram. Then work back and forth between the cryptogram and diagram to fit in the gaps and find the saying.



1	2	3	2	4
5	4	6	7	5
8	1	9	10	1
2	10	3	2	4
6	11	12	4	5
9	13	14	13	15
8	2	4	9	



1	2	3	3	4
1	5	6	7	8
2	4	9	10	11
5	12	13	14	15
8	2	4	9	

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The Shopper



Giving as good as it gets BY DAN BOLLES

THE SHOPPER Dan Bolles, 34

Burlington

Music Editor

Father

As a devout Wilco fan since I was a teenager, I set in denial that the band has descended into "dad rock" as so many worthy critics have suggested in recent years. Or I lied in denial, anyway, until Peter recently asked if I had heard the "new" new record, *The Whole Love* by "the Wilco." Uh... Well, if you don't hear 'em, just wait, right? So, at the 2012 Field Sound, the day after — and Higher Ground Presents presented — sets and songs lost at Miss MCCA in South Adams, I made a pact: I hope I'm old enough not to be embarrassed by my parents. 380/12/14/14

Solo Friend: Wilco's Music and Arts Festival, June 20-22, solofestivalvt.com.

Pet

At least once per dog-park visit, I get asked about the breed of my adorable-looking fury life partner, Buckley. Depending on my mood, I might say "pooch," just to enjoy the nervous expression on the face of the guy whose ill-informed dog knowledge is obviously snapping at Buckley's back. Or I might wake up a bit bored and see if they catch on ("He's a Shih-tzu Chihuahua!"). Truth is, I have no idea what my little mutt's true lineage might be. So I'm testing the mutt's DNA with the Wisdom Panel, check results to find out once and for all. 379-99



Smart Pet: [Wisdom Panel](http://wisdompanel.com), petgenetics.com

Pet Food Headquarters, 1500 Winooski Ave., South Burlington, 802-864-2812; winniesb.com

We're close to the holiday season — and to the Seven Days guide to gifts. Every Wednesday for the last few weeks, we've been offering ideas for just about everyone on your list. For greater variety, a different writer has weighed in each week, sans set of recipients, unique presents of mind. (Note: Some of these gifts are figments of our imagination.)

And what do we mean this year? Just for you to shop local, please and thank-yous. ☺

Long-Distance Girlfriend

This year, my long-distance girlfriend said she wanted something "Vermontish" for Christmas to remind her of home and suggested I pike around the Vermont Country Store website. Well, the hell with maple syrup and flourless cookies! As a bit of a gag — and at the risk of rendering myself obsolete — I decided on one of VCS' controversial "extreme novelties." Because nothing says "Vermont" like a vibrator, am I right? Until in case, how much was that maple syrup again? 318-85-1689.

vermontcountrystore.com

Best Friend

Most of my friends tend to be pretty frisky people. That's especially true of my best friend, with whom I've been rifling my various topics — OK, mostly date places — since we were kids. We've always been able to crack each other up — like "dick jokes," preceding sentence. But we got a laugh he could take his act to the comedy club as I tagged him up for the Stampede Comedy 101 class at St. Park Arts, where he'll learn how to work a crowd, conduct his stage fight and craft a good joke. Plus or otherwise. \$120 for a six-week class.

Smart Date: [Stampede](http://stampede.com), [Stampede Arts](http://stampedearts.org), stampedearts.org

Pregnant Friend

Find cool gifts for my expectant friend in particular is an unexpected challenge. The standard birds & bees obviously won't fit this year. And everyone is likely to give her presents that are really for the tykes. But, even though she's about to become "the greatest gift" or whatever, I'd love to do her something that's just for her. So a *Coloring Book for Pregnant Ladies* by Vermont's Ella Loop is just the thing. The first in a series of grown-up coloring books, it notably depicts the shoulders and indignities of being pregnant — stomach handles your belly, pregnancy acne, constantly cringing puppies, etc. Plus, it's good practice for when junior comes of age-and-a-half, and gives her something to hang on the refrigerator door. 379-99

Artistic Read: *Book for Pregnant Ladies* by Ella Loop, elaloop.itchinesepress.com

Kid Brother

Dude just got his license this year, and, frankly, has a bit of a terror on the block. Driving with him through Winooski is an impossibly harrowing exercise, so he — like most of you, apparently — hasn't quite mastered the intricacies of navigating the Green City's notorious roundabout. To him, "yield" is a four-letter word. So I'm getting him this nifty "Winooski Speedway" Token designed by local designer — and, full disclosure, 70 staffer — Steve Hafkka. \$15.

Present, Handmade: shewantsit.com



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Puzzle answers for page 38:
Never trust anyone over thirty.
(Jack Weisberger)
Happy Holidays from Seven Days

Answers for pages 39-40:
HK, 20, 84, 4F, 5G, 6K, 7E, 1H, 9D,
10N, 11M, 12J, 13K, 14F, 15C, 16L

SEVEN DAYS SEX SURVEY 2013

WHO ARE YOU?

Gender:

- Female
- Male
- M/F trans
- F/M trans
- Other

Age:

- 18 or younger
- 20-24
- 25-39
- 40-49
- 50-59
- 60-69
- 70 or older

Sexual orientation:

- Hetero
- Gay/bi/lesbian
- Bisexual
- Asexual
- Other

Political affiliation:

- Democrat
- Republican
- Progressive
- Independent
- Other

Relationship status:

- Married/inherited
- Single
- Going steady
- In an open relationship
- Polyamorous

Occupation:

Where did you grow up?

PRIVATE PARTS

I was ____ years old when I lost my virginity.

How many sex partners, if any, have you had in the last year? _____

How often do you have sex?

- Multiple times a day
- Once a day
- A few times a week
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- A few times a year
- Never
- Other... _____

How often do you masturbate?

- Multiple times a day
- Once a day
- A few times a week
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- A few times a year
- Never
- Other... _____

How often do you watch porn?

- Multiple times a day
- Once a day
- A few times a week
- At least once a week
- At least once a month
- A few times a year
- Never
- Other... _____

Are you satisfied with your current sex life?

- Yes
- No

Hey, Seven Days readers,

Do your feet hurt? Because we've been running through our minds all day. Actually, we haven't been able to stop thinking about you—and your creative sex lives—since we read your incredible, hilarious, candid and oddly touching responses to our 2011 sex survey.

A lot can change in two years. And we don't want this relationship to stagnate. So we've got a new set of probing questions to ask you—aonymously, of course. Why not slip into something a little more comfortable, put on some sultry lingerie and get cozy with us? Then, on February 23, you can save the results to our biannual sex issue.

Happy endings guaranteed!

Fill out this survey—preferably online at sevendaysvt.com—to be included in the 2013 results. If you use the paper ballot, send it to Sex Survey, c/o Seven Days, P.O. Box 1164, Burlington, VT 05402-1164. Either way, the deadline is Friday, January 4, at 5 p.m. ☺

SAVE A STAMP! Fill out the survey online at [»sevendaysvt.com](http://sevendaysvt.com).

Be you first sex in your own naked body?

- Yes
- No

If you have a penis, is it circumcised?

- Yes
- No

If you have a vagina, have you ever ejaculated?

- Yes
- No

Do you have any genital piercings?

- Yes
- No

In an sexual context, what do you prefer to call your genitals? _____

What is your favorite sex toy? _____

What's your go-to mood music for sex? Be specific. _____

Are easier for me to get off...

- with a partner
- on my own

The most inappropriate place I have masturbated is... _____

I ____ have sex on the first date.

- always
- never
- sometimes

If I come before my partner I make sure we keep going until neither has come, too.

- always
- never
- sometimes

My preferred safe-sexality control method is... _____

When it comes to pubic hair, I prefer that my partner...

- has an uncircumcised bush
- keeps the lawn trimmed and tidy
- is totally hairless
- shaves? As long as I'm getting laid
- Other... _____

Having... check all that apply!

- had an orgasm
- cheated on a partner
- been cheating on
- slept with an ex
- had sex with a relative
- had sex with a co-worker
- had sex with someone whose name I don't know
- had sex with more than one person at once
- had sex in a public place
- enjoyed BDSM
- had sex with others that wouldn't be afraid to eat on
- made a video of myself having sex
- uploaded and shared that video online
- been to a swinger party
- been a swinger myself
- paid for sex
- been paid for sex
- watched an my parents having sex
- had sex while someone else watched

SEVEN DAYS SURVEY
2013

47-48
 watched someone else having sex
 had sex with an animal

When I come, I sound like _____

I never thought I'd enjoy _____
 but damn, did I ever!

My biggest turn-on is _____

The quickest way to turn me off is _____

At what point in a new relationship do you tell your partner about a specific **Relationship You Have?**

- I wait it out until they ask
- I wait it out until they ask
- I bring up the subject in passing before we ever have sex
- I introduce it while we're having sex for the first time
- I bring it up after we've had sex a few times
- I only tell if my partner pushes it out of me.
- I don't really have any links.
- Other _____

How do you most often communicate your desires to a partner?

- Text
- Email
- Talking in person
- Body language
- Other _____

If you're in an exclusive relationship, how would you react to the discovery that your partner is cheating?

- Break off the relationship immediately

- Get even with a one-night stand of my own
- Attempt to work things out with the infidelity together or with a couple's counselor
- Forget and forget we all make mistakes
- Give _____

If you identify as straight or gay, has your ever had an outlier sexual experience (i.e., you're a straight-identified person who's had sex with a man)?

- No
- Yes

Tell us about it:

What's your biggest insecurity when it comes to sex?

Describe your favorite sexual fantasy:

If you're in a happily cooped-up, long-term relationship, what's your secret to keeping things hot?

What else should we have asked?

If you've ever gone to the hospital because of a sex- or masturbation-related injury?

- Yes
- No

Tell us about it:

Need some advice? Ask a question for **Mastress Minee**:

Name the Vermont celebrity you'd most like to bring:

What's your favorite sex scene in a movie?

What, if anything, are you embarrassed/ashamed about sexually?

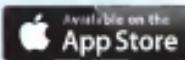
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SEVEN DAYS

BURLAPP

The Homegrown Guide to Burlington, VT

Soup du Jour

Where to find a great soup to go in Burlington? Seven Days does a taste test

BY COURTNEY COFF, CAROLYN FOX, STEVE HADEKA AND ALICE LEVITT

Nothing warms you on a winter day like a bowl of soup and a slice of crusty bread. But, especially around the holidays, not all of us have time to take on making stock and chopping veggies. And soup to go can be an iffy proposition.

The Seven Days staff often craves the comfort of a homemade meal at work, but, even after years at our Burlington offices, our teams had yet to find a favorite. Last week, we embarked on an admittedly unscientific survey of the five soup classes to our North Chapman Street office (former Fresh Market, recently closed). The only other qualifying factor was that the restaurants had to offer at least two daily soups.

Lead writer Alice Levitt assembled a crack team of tasters for the honor of sampling on 10 different concoctions during one lunch hour. Rich VT managing editor Carolyn Fox was the tough critic most eager to find the best soup available. Calendar writer Courtney Coff is a former personal chef with some great recipes of her own. As a vegetarian, she tasted most broths but didn't sample down on meaty stews. Circulation manager Steve Hadeka was along for the ride as one of our most willing reviewers in putting together the results.

Together, we separated the creamy classics from the bland slimes. Though our results are the notes of only a single day at each eatery, we learned a few important lessons. Soups are good; needlessly thick soups are bad. Chefs should be parsimonious in their choice of ingredients. A kitchen-sink soup will probably taste like just that. And, most importantly, chefs, taste your food before you send it out!



LOGAN'S OF VERMONT

30 Main Street, Burlington, 406-8585

Soups we tried: Carrot with rosemary, ham and barley
Cost per bowl: \$3.95
Bread per bowl: One thick, fluffy slice

Courtney Coff: The tomato soup was so salty I started drinking waterbowl after from the pan — rich and indulgent! The large chunks of carrots were perfectly tender, while the rosemary was nicely aromatic, a little went a long way. I try not to eat the same soups, so this ham and barley soup is actually the first time I had lunch it was, um...super healthy.

Alice Levitt: The comforting carrot with rosemary was like biting in berries, with just a whisper of rosemary to lift my mouth coated with fat in a way that said, "You just ate a revelation of a soup!"

I was the only one who appreciated the bewigged swirls of the meat in the lamb and barley soup. But, despite my enjoyment of the flavor, the ground-meat texture made me think more of Hamburger Helper than homemade stew.

Steve Hadeka: We got chittered by servers in many of the soups in this shoot-out, so it was refreshing to see them used so subtly here. Likewise, the rosemary just whispered in the background. All this in a broth that really

tasted like it was made by an amateur chef — plus almost-melted buttery scones of butter!

Courtney Coff: Even when I ate meat, I wasn't a big fan of lamb. All I can say about this broth is that it was punchy-enough-the-free-lunch. One bite and my spoon was down.

STONE SOUP

211 College Street, Burlington, 862-7016

Soups we tried: Beef/cheese split pea Cost per bowl: \$5.85
Bread per bowl: A whopping four slices of hearty wheat bread

All A film of red oil on top of the beef soup ruined any reservations, but the knot of spruce and cinnamon was an exotic treat, even if the complete package was too much to eat purely in a soup.

The split-pea soup smelled like a health-food store and needed salt. A hint of fennel was a pleasant touch, but, sorry — carrots are no substitute for nicely-pork hocks.

The fragrant beef broth had its highlights. When I tasted it, however, my curiosity waned. Its overtness and fatness of baked back to a childhood of dumping white vinegar into my grandfather's stew. Pass the saltini, please.

SC: The hearty broth of this soup featured hints of cinnamon and other spices, just not enough to bolster it much above Dirty Moonstruck. But boy, this beef stew, for shrimps.

SOUP DU JOUR: PHOTOS BY PAUL HEINTZ

More food after the classifieds section, page 47



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Side dishes

BY CORIN HIRSCH & ALICE LEVITT

The Chips Are Up

BRITISH-STYLE EATERY OPENS IN BURLINGTON

The closure of field� shop makes Matt left a hole in his diet in Burlington. Last month, a very different international eatery filled it when **WOMAN'S MOST DELICIOUS** opened.

Pittsford's ALAN SCOTT: **M**attress and his son, Sam, were living in New York City when they decided to return to "real food" of Burlington to open a chip shop Scott Mattress had previously lived in southern Vermont and was just back from five years in Canada, where he established the Global Chip School.

For now, World's Most Delicious has only two items on the menu: fish and chips, both fried in light olive oil, which is filtered daily for a healthier less-greasy product. The chips are slice-cut, seasoned russets, which father and son double-fry for optimal, "New-York-style" crispness. The fish varies depending on what **MARKET PRICE** can bring: flounder to lamb chops. It's carefully battered in a mix of flour, salt and beer made at **MONTPELIER BREWERY**, just down the road.

A liquor license is in the works, and Matt Mattress says there's already an off-menu dessert bar-battered and fried macarons, which he bakes in a nod to the fried Mac Bars of his native Scotland.

WMD gives a 10 percent discount to those carrying military ID, but it's stingy for your supper policy is less conventional. Any customer who plays at the entry for an hour gets a free fish appetizer and beverage, through WMD's Facebook page name, "Other drivers are entitled to be yes off the stage if you playing does not please them."

—A.L.

Dishy Destiny

OWNER TO OPEN AN ASYLUM

IT'S been in my dreams... A Mexican restaurant, a clam shack, a roadside and a long-running night club called Destiny. The forerunner of the one-story building at 8309 Route 8 in Asylum Valley have experts said an old and new effort paid to those of the **newlyweds**.

Now the building's latest incarnation might draw the attention of Guy Fieri: **THE ASYLUM DINER** is due to open there this week.

Chester's BOB REED and **ATTICA BURGERS** will serve three meals a day, six days a week, there will be the only establishment in lower Essex dinner since **Coca Del Sol** closed that year. "We asked around, and we heard, 'If you build it, we will come,'" Reed says. He and wife Kim run a food truck in Asylum late summer and used to own a snack bar adjacent to Quacker George.

With that experience under their belts, they've built a menu dense with all-American classics such as meatloaf, parmesan and burgers but also peppered with slightly offbeat deer dishes such as "Friends' Town" heart, an Italian sausage-and-onion sack, fried rice-and-cheese bites and plates of liver and onions with bacon.

Reed says that the kitchen will serve fresh seafood and steaks each night — along with beer and wine — and diners can order their chops with a **Mountain rib**.

Open every day but Monday, **Asylum Diner** can be reached at 872-4264.

—C.H.

Lights On

OLIVE HOUSE RESTAURANT MOVES

Clever House, Colchester's destination for well-prepared pub fare and upscale specials, will close its doors after its December 31 New Year's celebration. In January, owner Doug Morris and chef Sean Carter will open the Lighthouse Restaurant in the Colchester Hampton Inn space previously occupied by T-Bar's Restaurant & Bar.

Carter says Clever House has outgrown its 60-seat home. The Lighthouse will seat 220 in its space, which includes a lounge and outdoor deck.

The new restaurant, says Carter, will focus more on affordable fare during than on the pub fare of his predecessor. The menu will include a "build-your-own" option. Diners choose a protein, such as prime rib or scallops, then complement it with a starch, a seasonal vegetable and a sauce such as port demi-glace or horseradish.

A 60-seat solar bar will be "casual and fresh," Carter says. Before long, he plans to introduce a large specialty menu similar to the one he fills with casual, local, fresh and seafood dishes at Clever House.

—A.L.

Pub Life

MEMORY'S TO NAME TAPENADE CHOCOLATE BAR

When **BARO'S** REMARKS purchased an 1842 residence in the center of Williston village eight years ago, it needed heavy renovation — which Henslowe did so elegantly that he picked up a historic preservation award in the process.

The renovation he created, **Memory's Tapas Tavern**, has since become a Williston fixture. But now Henslowe is exiting the business, he sold it to his son-in-law, **HAROLD**. "I'm happy with what I did there. I hope it keeps going for a long time," Henslowe says.

If Aley's name sounds familiar, it's because he owned **AMIS PLACE** on Burlington's Church Street before selling the business in 2009 and opening **WEST END** in Winooski.

Now Aley plans to put that business up for sale in short order and return to the

town where he was born and raised. "I'm looking forward to the four-mile commute," Aley says.

He'll keep Memory's menu and hours as they are for now, Aley says, but an exciting remodel, diners can expect a renovated exterior as well as a renovated, menu from executive chef **JIMMY OZIER**, who will stay on. "We'll keep some of the staples, such as the burgers," says Aley, but he suggests the new tapas go the way of **Alley's Den**. There, chef **JAMES RICHARDSON** has rolled out a "more European-American menu," with dishes such as beef bourguignon, chicken pot pie and a Portobello quiche chop.

The current Memory's looks both a flyer and a large bar, while Aley can't sold the first because of a zoning issue, he plans to expand the second. "There will be more of a working bar, and we'll serve



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Soup du Jour

CP: Some of the vegetables were overly soft, while the beef was a bit chewy for soup. But the red-orange broth was warm and comforting, with just a touch of heat — it would be nice on a cold winter's day.

The split pea was thick, like a stew, and very starchy. It felt like I had just tried to swallow caulk. Far from packed with vegetables, it didn't have much flavor.

AUGUST FIRST

140 South Champlain Street,
Burlington, 0540-0000

Soups we tried: Thai chicken split pea
Cost per bowl: \$5.25
Bread per bowl: One slice of olive bread

SH: This soup was heavy on the chicken and light on the "Thai." It might have passed for Thai 15 or even 30 years ago, before general Burlington's Thai and Vietnamese revolution, but let's face it, we've all become a little more worldly thanks to the solid offerings of spots such as Taty Thai and Pho Hong, so, yeah, not a bad soup, but in 2012 it takes more than a cloth of coconut milk to make something Thai-tastic.

Sweeter and browner than the mass-market version, this split pea wins the Licks first award for the day (come on, what passow review would be complete without an Everett reference?)

AJ: Sure, the Thai chicken could have used some galangal or lemongrass lime, but I found the cocunutty broth satisfying. More spice would have been nice, but I was happy to be practically drowning in tender chicken.

The split pea splashed out of its container into the bowl like thick applesauce. If only a glug of pepper made it almost edible.

Neither soup combined well with the provided olive bread, which is delicious on its own — two tastes that did not taste great together.

CC: Having lived in the Thai-food mecca of New York City for nine years, I've spent plenty of time plucking that strip of chicken out of my health-food soups and downing the rest. While I'm not far from demanding the best of the big city's cuisine elsewhere, I had visions of a no-sugar-added coconut-milk base with perfectly wilted cilantro and basil balancing things out. This broth was too thin for my liking and tasted more like plain chicken broth than anything else.

MIRABELLES

199 Main Street, Burlington 862-3274

Soups we tried: Nordic winter vegetable with barley, turkey vegetable

Cost per bowl: \$5.25 These bowls were

the largest we tried by a good measure. Bread per bowl: Far from soups we received one and a half slices, though they were among the most delectable.

SH: With the full spectrum of winter vegetables available to us, I couldn't wait to have my hair blown back by what would surely be an almost psychedelic blast of color. When I did find instead? Khao. This soup was without exaggeration, both the color and flavor of Dickey's wacky-fu, reduced-drinkas



**THE SILKY,
WELL-SEASONED AND
CREAMY POTAGE
DESERVED BETTER THAN
THE SOLO CUPS FROM
WHICH WE DRANK IT.**

As far as the turkey veg, I could swear this soup came straight out of the Carrick Elementary School hot-lunch program.

CC: I call the Nordic vegetable soup monotonous, mostly I call the flavor... well, what flavor?

CP: What's in the Nordic vegetable? Let it me eat.

What was there not in my turkey soup? This tasted like something you'd eat at a hospital.

AJ: I trusted the gourmet cooks at Mirabelles to do better, especially with something nonstop speaks that day including valio-as-went with lemon chicken and considering the superb quality of its baked goods. The

parsnip-filled veggie soup tasted like the work of Mann's on health hinge.

Meatloaf-tasting chunks of hard turkey dominated the other soup, and an odd assortment of starches, including overcooked grains and chickpeas.

CHEF'S CORNER SOUTH END

208 Flynn Avenue, Burlington 862-7887

Soups we tried: Butternut-squash bisque, Italian Wedding

Cost per bowl: \$5

Bread per bowl: Two slices plus butter

AL: The bisques would have made perfect soups served in chow on a white tablecloth. The silky, well-seasoned and creamy potage deserved better than the solo cups from which we devoured it.

I may have been even more impressed with the winter-deely Wedding soup. The meaty broth had an almost floral flavor, as did the tender meatballs. That was the best-balanced soup of the day, with just enough acid and the perfect amount of salt to draw out every bit of flavor.

SH: My wife, Maggie, and I really miss soupmaking. Our favorite dish was the butternut-squash soup they run as a special in colder months. Chef's Corner's version of the soup was every bit as good and reflected what I presume to be the place's mission: offering actual gourmet food in a handy grab-and-go format.

CP: The Italian Wedding assembla were rice and garlic, and the soup was loaded with onion, rice, carrots and herbs. Individually, all the parts were quite nice, but the broth was overwhelmingly salty for me — it reminded me of fish sauce.

CC: Chef's Corner delivered in a big way. The bisque was a perfect shade of orange, just the right thickness and full of flavor. Sometimes all it takes is a handful of ingredients prepared with care. By far my favorite of the bunch.

To be fair, I hardly jet down from my leatherette-busque high when I sampled the Wedding soup. The broth was full of herbs and greens, and I detected notes of thyme, which I love. A bit salty for me, but again, by that time my palate had had enough. ☐

SIDE dishes

CONTINUED FROM PAGE A7



Vermont microbrewery?" he says.

Peter Yee of Yellow Sign Conservation handled the deal, confidentially listing Monk's for sale.

— C.H.

Crumbs

LETTER TO THE NEWS

Tony Margonney

Center City on its way to becoming a major destination — and, perhaps, a culinary one. When the occupant this weekend at 240 Main Street, it will give that building a very different character from its predecessors, the Inn on Trott River.

KOZY KITCHEN, the photographer behind the book *Guy in America*, and his partner, JACK BARLETTA, purchased the inn last spring and worked on renovating the space into something

worthy of a Travel + Leisure photo shoot. They recruited New York consultant WF! Crucial to assemble a small plates pub menu that the public can taste this Sunday, Padfield says to expect the opening of an additional fine-dining restaurant as soon as next month.

For now, the pub will serve what Padfield calls "reverent, worldly comfort food." On a given night, five eight-range items (cubed shoulder, fradue and chicken livers with deviled eggs to pair). That said, portrators, he says

— R.J.

traveled to Detroit, but WILLIAMSBURG BREWERY here may be even more interested now that the January 2013 issue of

Vanity Fair, featuring former *SHARKNELL*, has hit the newsstands.

In "Serving the Bar," a grueling 1011 appears alongside portraits of both his brewery and his beers, which writer Agata Carter says are "delicious enough to win over wine-and-spirits lovers" because some of them, such as the Bourbon-barrel-aged porter *Heads of Tragedy*, blur the line between wine and beer at first sip.

Center is clearly maturing, maybe Tony Farn's 1.2 million subscribers will soon be, too.

— C.H.

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Words to Chew On

Three flavorful local foodie books from 2012

BY CORIN HIRSCH

These days, I rarely find new recipes online and cook them with an air that perfumes the kitchen counter. With the internet saturated with recipes, food blogs, eating sites and travel guides, it's easy to find a recipe or review for almost anything—and to forget how food knowledge is still flourishing in another medium: books.

Why spend money on the "hard copy" foodie equivalent of porn when you can find so much of it online? For one thing, a cookbook is much easier for me to thumb through than a blue-and-white list of Google results. For another, a restaurateur or farm guide studied in your glove compartment is more useful than your phone when you find yourself with a one-bar signal—a commonplace occurrence in Vermont.

Most importantly, it feels good to pay for the work of writers who test recipes 20 or more times, or dive out five nights in a row so that you don't have to. (The job can be less glamorous than it sounds; just ask a food writer about her cholesterol level.)

This past year brought a bounty of food and ag books from Vermont authors that are engaging but decidedly cerebral, including Kirk Kausala's *Milk Money*, *Grist, Gose, and the Death of the American Dairy Farm* and Paul A. Kausala's

Cheese and Culture: A History of Cheese and Its Place in Western Civilization. Thought-provoking fare that were already reviewed and discussed in these pages, but not books to browse casually.

What we also deserved lighter fare, though, was a book that might serve as last-minute gifts or useful guides to stash in your car. Two are from Vermont authors, and one is simply focused, in part, on Vermont. Each is an ideal stocking stuffer for...

The dedicated locavore

As I walked down Newport's Main Street one evening last summer, a woman outside Woodstock Bookshop handed me an elegant-looking book. Turned out it was her book, she was author Bethany Dubois, a longtime writer for (and now coeditor of) the Rutland *Free Press* (and now editor-in-chief of) the Barre *Champlain Courier* (she also edited a memoir book, *Rugby's Party & Sustainable Ecologie*). Eddie Guide to Vermont's Northeast Kingdom, "an extension of my work I have been doing for 25 years, telling these local stories," its dense with colorful profiles of the places and people that comprise the Kingdom's food scene.

In a string of two-page essays with distinctive bylines (by the author), Dubois shares the backstories of the farmers,

restaurants and innkeepers the calls neighbors, writing in an approachable style that makes readers feel as if they've stumbled onto a tight-knit family. While Dubois mentions big names, such as the Cellars at Jasper Hill, Clancy's Restaurant & Bar, Hill Farmstead Brewery and Peach Greens, it's her portraits of smaller places that give this book its character.

Many Vermonters may not have heard of Too Little Farm in Barre or Blue Pint Specialty Cakes in Greenbush, for instance. Nested among these profiles are useful guides to local farmers' markets and seasonal events such as the Food Swimming Celebration each spring in East Burke and Newport's Grapefruit House Festival in December.

Dubois veers from straightforward journalism to "story notes" and back, sometimes sharing her store of personal stories to illustrate the Kingdom's folklife. Her Aunt Maudie comes up in relation to Quady Country摸摸, and Dubois describes her alarm at hearing peepers two weeks early and her appreciation of the "inseparable sound" of being up as opposed to Taylor Farm and the art of maple syrup. (She also offers valuable, no-nonsense tips, such as noting that Taylor's Attitash in Barre offers both regular and a taste of the farm's famous syrup.)

#1 Kingdom Bounty: A Sustainable Future (Vermont Editions, \$19.95); *Woodstock Bookshop* by Bethany Dubois, 300 pages, \$16.

Food Lovers' Guide to Vermont & New Hampshire: The Best Restaurants, Markets & Local Culinary Offerings by Brianne Morris and David Lyon (Globe Pequot Press, 400 pages, \$14.99).

It's a Farmer, Part Three: Pastoral, Domestic and Other Passions (Reprinted by Greenleaf Book Group, \$20), Taboo & Orange, 252 pages, \$20.

Cheese and Culture: A History of Cheese and Its Place in Western Civilization by Paul A. Kausala (Chelsea Green, 2010), 400 pages, \$14.95.

Maple Money: Cook, Cones, and the Death of the American Sugar Venture by Kirk Kausala (Univ. of New Hampshire Press, 210 pages, \$21.95).

Like any food guide, Kingdom's Bounty isn't always up to the moment; for instance, Dubois profiles Houghton Creamery, the Albany cheese-making facility recently destroyed by fire, and owner Morris Morris. "She still holds onto her dreams to become a farmer, but for now, the cheese business continues off of her ties," Dubois writes. They print,

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food

added just before the book went to press, notes the fire.

Now, more than a year later, Morris is poised to become the farmer and baker extraordinaire at Bragg Farm in Duxbury. Such is the case, as shifting world of food and agriculture that Morris's sold book captures the personalities that are likely to be on our stage for years to come, and the firms that will be around even longer.

The road tripper

road is spirit like never blues style in execution in *Food Lovers' Guide to Vermont & New Hampshire: The Best Restaurants, Markets & Local Culinary Offerings*, a squat, square book that ambitiously aims to highlight every significant food experience inside the two-state borders.

Audrey Patricia Himes and David Lyons, aka the Hungry Travelers (the name of their longstanding blog), live in Cambridge, Mass., but they often traverse New England in search of enticing local adventures.

And thus words readily fly out. It seems the book clocks in at 420 pages, 169 of those devoted solely to Vermont. Himes and Lyons found their way into some of the state's most rural corners, from Caspary's Burger Barn to Swanton's Phish Farm. Along the way, they discovered that the Belvidere Cow Spirits' John Delphi does barrel races once a week, that the owners at Montpelier's Meme Penn are "intense," and that the Margaux at Lincoln Peak Vineyard is a "mee, bethy wine with black currant and cherry notes."

It's always interesting to see how out-of-towners view Vermont, and to decide if you agree on points such as whether Church & Main's dishes tend to "combine two strong flavors or two textures or both." I learned a few things, too. For instance, that regulars of South Hero's Blue Paddle Bistro demanded the restaurant return its gorgonzola-stuffed meatball to the menu. That chef Doug Misch for Mary's Restaurant at the base of Jay Peak in Stowe has been serving his

count of garlic soup every night since 1983. And that you can get Frog's legs at East Dorset's Chianticleer Restaurant.

Major props to Himes and Lyons if they truly ate everything mentioned here, which is lot of eatables.

The aspiring baker

Our office seems to have an ongoing long-distance love affair with Debbie-Debbi Frado, though she probably doesn't realize it. I've used her as a source on at least one occasion, and last year we asked her to help judge a dessert competition as part of Vermont Restaurant Week. Last spring, Seven Days' audience Pollstar Pollstar devoted a feature to Debbie-Frado's book *Pie It Forward: Pies, Tarts, Tarts, Galore and Other Desserts Reinvented*, featuring her one-grain-at-a-time recipe to turn out a ensemble, a pie and a tart, with mainly delicious results.

Now, as we like to call her, is a breezy and witty writing her personal story, winner every page, and her no-nonsense instructions put successful, edible pies within reach of even the most party-challenged Galahootie. That Bubby's phone bring everything so life.

The prolific Hartford baker and confections-maven books within a few years, *Pie It Forward* is also her most approachable to date. Recipes for Passion Fruit Chiffon Tartlet, Piggy Pops and a Cajun-inspired Low-Country Bell (the nickname with tips on how to avoid "crashage" when baking chouxcream) and the ideal maple syrup to use when baking (Grade B).

Last week, I tried to find a copy of *Pie It Forward* to give as a gift, but three of four businesses I called were sold out, though said. Luckily, we don't have to wait long for Debbie-Frado's next book. *Eat Like You Mean It: Gorgeously Clean Foods Inside Out*, her guide to all kinds of cakes, is due out in March 2013.



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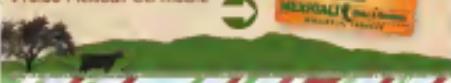
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Thursday - \$4.00 House Margaritas

Sunday - \$3.00 Des XI draft



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calendar

DECEMBER 19 - 26, 2012

WED.19

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

KELLEY MARKETING MEETINGS Marketing, advertising, communications, and attend a web and design professionals to learn about local marketing tips and trends. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Hotel Indigo, Burlington. \$10-\$15. Info 802-860-1300.

comedy

HAPPY HOUR COMEDY Fun-loving participants "harmless" live in an "Anyways"-style game in an encouraging environment. Space Arts, Burlington. 8 p.m. \$15. Suggested donation. Info 802-860-3333.

crafts

HANDMADE STUFF Perfectly bizarre crafts become works of art and jewelry that will have visitors leave funds and awareness. Fiber Recycle Vermont, Burlington. 5 p.m. Free. Info 204-3887.

OPEN HOUSE & COOKIES Search and save! Baked from scratch, cookies, cakes, and more. Community Center, South Burlington. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Free. Info 204-3822.

events

BALLET: THE WISDOM OF FOLK Ballet focus on the folktale setting as they return to culture and tradition. The Nutcracker, the Snow Queen, and more. A unique blend of traditional and modern music from around the world. Hangar Mountain Co-op, Montpelier. 8 p.m. \$10-\$12. Prepurchase. Info 802-860-1300. Info 802-860-1300.

fitness

ADULT BRIDGE CLASS Hours of all-expenses levied for fun, memory, and social activity with experts and newbs. Burlington Library. 1 p.m. Free. Info 802-860-1300. Info 802-860-1300.

health & fitness

EVERGREENS FOR MORY CARE & MEMORIAL WEE Class participants discuss dangers and remedies for the winter months ahead and receive City Health, Burlington. 9 a.m.-10:30 a.m. \$10. Preregistered info 802-860-5757.

HERITATION & DESIGN FEST Over 100 companies from around the world showcase their latest products and services. Followed by 20 minutes of entertainment and a book discussion. Maplecroft, Rutland. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Info 802-773-0449.

HOHOLAH A 100% women's comedy show. Performers include Leah N. McLean, representative of human nature; Burlington Bunker; Chasie; and 8-Tours. 7 p.m. Info 802-860-

arts & crafts

HOVETTE'S HOLIDAY BOOK SALE Afternoon gift of all kinds for everyone by Design for Today. Burlington Holiday Library, Hinesburg. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Info 802-860-3333.

leisure

KARTIME PLAYGROUP Challenge kids and their parents to a fun-filled day of learning and sharing. Involving Acting, science, art, literacy, music, and more. Info 802-860-1300. Info 802-860-3333.

LEGGING PLAYDATE Children and their adults can enjoy a unique sensory experience in regular and other locations. American Legion, Burlington. 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. Info 802-860-3333.

MARSHFIELD PLAYGROUP Imagine that! An adventure in creative arts that will teach them that life is fun. Info 802-860-3333.

MINNEHA LAKE TRAIL RUN Register online at www.minnehalaketrailrun.com. Info 802-860-3333.

MONDAY NIGHT HIKES Hikes and magazine. Info 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Info 802-860-1300.

MOVIES & SMOOTHIES WITH CINCHETTA Tea. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. \$10 per person to rock and roll and smoothie. Info 802-860-1300. Info 802-860-1300.

STORY TIME & PLAYGROUP Read about today, give the story for themed art, karaoke and crafting project. Josaphat Public Library, Middlebury. 10 a.m.-10:30 a.m. Info 802-368-5581. josaphatlibrary.org/storytime.html

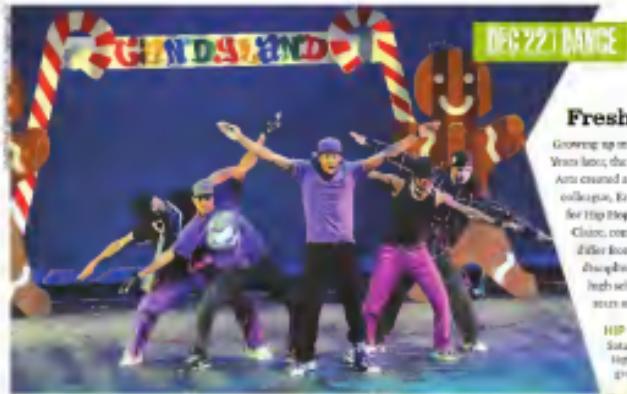
STORY TIME: 7 AM - 70+ YEAR OLD Storytelling for the elderly. Info 802-860-1300. Info 802-860-1300.

STORY TIME WITH MEL CLARK Listen while she tells a story through puppets and colorful puppets with ready listening listeners. Jaffrey Center. Info 603-524-2100. Info 603-524-2100.

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WEDNESDAYS AT 10:30 Info 802-860-1300.



DEC.22 DANCE

Fresh and Funky

Growing up in Berlin, Louise Haberry saw *The Nutcracker* many times. Years later, the founder and director of Green Mountain Freerunning Arts created a hip-hop interpretation of the holiday classic. Haberry's colleague, Ernest "E-Sauk" Phillips of MTV fame, takes the reins for Hip Hop Nutcracker at 3812 Series, New Haven's season. A before-and-after, *Chase*, centered around her role as a family whose dance styles differ from hers. In a production that encompasses different disciplines and cultures, 60 students from elementary through high school perform with professional dancers and Phillips, who return to the "Nutcracker."

HIP HOP NUTCRACKER — 2012 REMIX

Saturday, December 22, 4 and 7 p.m., at Harvard Union High School in South Danbury \$20-\$15 info 248-0600 greenmountainfreerunningarts.org

DEC.21 | MUSIC

While some call inventors folk, others downplay Pink Floyd's inventiveness. Longo's vocals and guitar lead the other grand Slambowians, who are described as "Sharky McEwen" — guitar, mandolin, jackets and ties" and "Pink Lloyd" — accordion, ukele, nutshoes and showstoppers! All quirks aside, these multi-instrumentalists bring their own brand of Americana to passionate live shows. Despite earlier success in a previous band, the three shunned record deals in favor of taking time off. Longo and McEwen attended art school, ultimately recruiting their professor, Tony Zuzolo, as drummer. The group plays a concert of holiday tunes — with a twist.

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faire & festivals

WINTERFAIRE See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

food & drink

SEASIDE TREATMENT The award-winning Racine ice cream shoppe celebrates fresh, seasonal and organic ingredients. 100% natural, non-GMO, even raw and organic. 100% Fair Trade. Para: 97.9% A+ or better. 32-arts.info 414-640-2200.

festivals

A CHRISTMAS CAROL The misanthropic Scrooge gets uncharitable Christmas Eve in a form fit for the stage. The cast includes Jim Corden, David Spade, Tracy Ullman, Jennifer Tilly, and Kristin Chenoweth. Opened Oct. 25. \$30-\$50. 401-524-1000.

CHRISTMAS AT THE FARM See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

SHON RIVER CHOCOLATE See SAT 22, Chock-Chock Chocolate Mart, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 401-782-1100.

PRESCHOOL ENTHUSIAST WORKSHOP Participants learn how teachers interact with their students at a casual drop-in workshop. Preschoolers encouraged. Free. 401-782-2100.

music

WINTERFEST 2013 Jeff Wetherby conducts organs and synthesizers in a community church event, mostly 30 years old. It's the return. Congregational singing starts at 4 p.m.; suggested donation open bar: \$10. 401 suggested donations plus Perky. Info: 401-782-1300.

ESCALA RUMBA See SAT 23, Congregational Church, Cranston. 251-96.

outdoors

WINTER RIDERS See SAT 22, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

events

WINTERFEST IN PLAINS AND CHASE Hours of all sorts of winter fun, including Sunday breakfast, the 10K, the special art, crafts and sheet滑雪 (Snowshoe) races. \$10-\$15. 7 a.m.-1 p.m. \$10 per person with membership. \$15 per person without info: 302-281-0000.

WOMEN'S PICKUP VOLLEYBALL Games of mixed and female teams in a rugged setting, passing, serving and hitting. Info: 401-222-0000. Address: 100 Main Street, Providence Center, Providence. \$15. For women: 401-222-0000 and up. Info: 401-222-0000.

clubs

WINTER FEST See SAT 22, 4 p.m.

WINTER FAIR See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

MON. 24

comedy

INDIE JEW COMEDY See SUN 23, 7:30 p.m.

festivals

CHRISTMAS EVE CELEBRATION The most exciting Christmas fest-a-mony! The best has all the greens there. 945 hours of health foods and products in abundance. An evening sojourn through paradise and fireworks. Address: 100 Main Street, Providence. \$20 info: 401-429-8800.

CHRISTMAS AT THE FARM See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

kids

STORYTIME WITH REBECCA Storytimes are full of fun, songs and rhymes. Rebecca Pfeiffer (Bald Ridge), 10-11:30 a.m. 401-885-2239.

outdoors

WINTER RIDERS See SAT 22, 11 a.m.-3 p.m.

TUE. 25

holiday

WINTERFEST CHRISTMAS DINNER An awards presentation dinner in the home of legend Jim Jones in Cranston. Thanksgiving dinner, 2 p.m. \$10. Info: 401-782-1000 or 800-347-0009.

WED. 26

comedy

WINTERFEST See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

faire & festivals

WINTERFEST See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

fairs

MARSHMALLOW & FLOW STATION The biggest, messiest, most fun party in the land is back this year with a whole lot of epic powder fun and snow-tubing, snow-tubing, snow-tubing. \$10. Info: 302-565-5511.

gymnastics

WILBURTON GYM CLUB Parkville's weekly Gym Club is back! December 2013. Friday 2:30-4 p.m. C.R. Wilson Local Gym. Address: 1000 Newgate Road, C.R. Wilson Local Gym. \$10. For a set of 12-hour home care funds, \$100. Info: 401-782-5555.

holidays

CHRISTMAS AT THE FARM See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

WINTERFEST HOLLYWOOD ROCK See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Arts

WINTERFEST PLATINUM See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

WINTERFEST 2013 SWIMMING WITH THE FISH See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

ST. ALBANS PLATINUM See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

STORM TIME 2013 PLATINUM See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

WINTER TIME FOR 3-7-8-9-10-11-12 See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

YOUTH MEDIA CLASS See SAT 22, 3:30-4:30 p.m.

outdoors

WINTERFEST See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

sport

WHITE MOUNTAIN TABLE TENNIS CLIMB See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

STAFF HOLIDAY CUP 2013-14 See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

theater

PERFORMANCE See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

events

WINTERFEST CHRISTMAS MARKET FAIR See SAT 22, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

CENTRAL TO YOUR NEW LIVES



"The doctors and nurses were great. During the tough time they all worked together, were calm and got us through it. They were great...and the care continues to be great. Thank you."

And the babies - the Ruel TWINS - are also great. Jayden Michael Paul Ruel entered this world weighing 5lbs and his bigger sister Jenna Lee Marie Ruel weighed 5lb 10oz. Their birthday was Friday, December 7. Brother and sister are very sweet and tiny and have made their parents...and grandparents...

and great-grandparents... and aunts....**VERY HAPPY**. Their daddy Darrin is happy to have a son to help even out the family boy/girl ratio - from what we could see from family present!

there are lots of excited women waiting to help out.

Shannon and Darrin were taking their new family home to Northfield Falls where the twins would be welcomed by all. We wish them all the best and continued joy and happiness.



Roger H. Elford
MD, OB-GYN



Roger A. Kowalewski,
DO, FACOG



Jessica E. RM,
CDE, Nurse



Elizabeth E.
RN, OB-Nurse



Tal Leykinson, MD
Anesthesiologist



Shelly RM, LIRE,
IBCLC, Lactation
Consultant



Rita RM,
IBCLC, Lactation
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Scene Poll

Local musicians weigh in on the best music of 2012

BY SAM ROLLES

Rapping the best music from a great year is always overwhelming. So we asked local musicians, fans and assorted commenters for their takes on the best albums (local and national) and favorite concerts they took in this year. We also added a "wild card" category that was completely open-ended. Here's what they said:

Caroline O'Connor (Vedora)

- Local album: Michael Chorney and Dollar General, *Disposition of the Orchestra*, and Myrsin Speed, *Nimble*
- Nonlocal album: Shriek Six Sister, *Thump*
- Concert: Sleepy Sun, White Hells at the Monkey House in April, and Anders Parker/WH Johnson in a house show in Montpelier in September



Anders Parker (Anders Parker Cloud Badge)

- Local album: Myrsin Smith, *Myrsin Smith*
- Nonlocal album: Neil Young and Crazy Horse, *Puddle* (P!ATW's "Whale's for supper, Neil?" "Guitar, parker and more guitars")
- Concert: Thurston Moore w/ the First Universal Unitarian Church, Burlington. Also, the Walking Windows festival in Winooski was great. I'm sure glad it exists; I hope that it grows and can bring in even more attendees.

Mike Loomis (music director, 104.7 FM The Point)

- Local album: *Clouds*, A Small Award (I've been meaning by the work of Amanda that since those two "If You See This" did.)

- Nonlocal album: John Fullbright, *From the Ground Up*
- Concert: Broken Trapper at Higher Ground

Sean Hood (Hello Shark, 7D freelance music reviewer)

- Local album: Myrsin Smith, Myrsin Smith (Hand-drawn Burlington best post-breakup album.)
- Nonlocal album: Jason Isbell & the 400 Unit, *Change the Way You Feel About Me Now*
- Concert: Nancy and Grace Valley in a packed living room right at summer's end.
- Wild card: I've wished so hard for Shellye Shoulder's debut double album, *Colder Rivers*. (Just listen to half, boy, it's amazing, can't wait!)

Eric Olsen (Swale)

- Local album: *Swale*, A Small Award (that I don't know about that. *Swallow*? Absolutely. After all the half and golf and aftertrucking and long weekends and linkin teeth and hospital bracelets and toothless bedrock and solos Mack rats and rude invasions over the past decade, this album finally because physical. It's like having a third kid, man dragon.)
- Nonlocal album: Father John Misty, *Fear Fun*
- Concert: My favorite night this year, when I was sick and proud as fuck to be living in NYC, was the Vans Warped tour of a band called death and the after-party at the Bowery House. I saw Death perform twice that night. No comparison.
- Wild card: Miss of the Year—Hildegard. If you have to ask, you may never know why. It turned our little corner of the world into the center of the galaxy, one show at a time.

Matt Burr (Grace Potter and the Nocturnals)

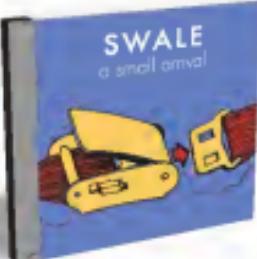
- Local album: *Heavy Yarns, That Is a Future*
- Nonlocal album: Father John Misty, *Fear Fun*
- Concert: Carolina Chocolate Drops, *Broads, Floating Action*

Beckie Shelskie (talent buyer at Charlie's, Montpelier)

- Local album: Spt Jack, *Whiskey Eyes*
- Nonlocal album: *Viva Le Vox*, Dori Freeman
- Concert: Public Enemy at Higher Ground

Michael Chorney (Dollar General)

- Local album: *Wooden Dreams*, Space
- Nonlocal album: *Homes Not Sure* (I really love one.)
- Concert: *Sister People's Sound Collective* at the May Barn at Goddard College. Simply one of the best concerts I have ever heard by anyone, local or not.



Kunyte Lander (State & Main Records)

- Local album: First Crush, *Halfway Home*
- Nonlocal album: *Handwritten*, Handwritten
- Concert: Billy Bragg at Higher Ground. (The man who changed music, war and love for me. But seriously as hell, he talked to me like an old friend after the show. A true marvel that still is.)
- Wild card: Seth, live at the opening of A Band Called Death at Jason's Crossroads. Punk rock à la punk, against in Vermont.

DJ Disco Phantom

- Local album: Myrsin Smith, *Myrsin Smith*
- Nonlocal album: *Handwritten*, Handwritten
- Concert: *Adolescence*, *World, You Need a Change of Mind*
- Concert: Kid Koala with Ades Asaram and the Experience at Higher Ground. (It was like nothing I had ever seen before.)
- Wild card: I saw Jeni River at the Flynn earlier this year and it was awesome. She still has got it, and it was courageous.

Alex Budney (talent buyer at Nectar's)

- Local album: Zack duPont, *Somewhere in Between*
- Nonlocal album: Myrsin Smith, *How Do You Do*
- Concert: *Falsefire* at Club Metropolis

Toby Aronson (NNA Tapes)

- Local album: *Blanche Etanche Blanche, Wink With Both Eyes* (This is really next-level pop instrumentation.)
- Nonlocal album: John Holter, *Islands*
- Concert: House show with Nitro Young, Donotsell, A Snake in the Garden, Lord Bird and Soler 420.
- Wild card: I am constantly impressed with Burlington's ability to be open to new music. In a world of severe evasiveness and coverage of music based on cultural implication, it's great to hear Burlington accepting new local and touring bands, [giving] a chance to witness, dance or just be present with the jams.

Bob Wagner (Bob Wagner Band)

- Local album: Zack duPont, *Somewhere in Between*
- Nonlocal album: Jay Farrar, Anders Parker, Will Johnson, *Yan Yawas*, New Multitudes
- Concert: I had a special moment at the M. Ward show (Higher Ground), though I'm sure it's not my five pick of the year.

sOUNDbites

BY CAM ROLLES



Wild Things

When we asked local musicians for their takes on the best music of 2012, we received far too many responses to include in the feature leading this week's music section (page 64). Answering to the open-ended "wild card" question tended to be especially long, and, in the interest of excoriating a wide variety of responses, many ended up on the cutting room floor.

But several of those answers were really good, touching upon the bare qualities of our very music scene. A selection of them follows:

One hot topic: **PABLO REIGAN** rapping down after six years as the bawling honcho at the Monkey House, **INNATS DRUGS** dubbed him the "Muzik of the Year" ... we're still waiting for Time magazine's take on that. **WHERE FAMOUS** writes that **STAGG** "had more joy to work with and brought some really interesting things to the Monkey House." Agreed.

MEAT PICTURE AND THE KATYBURNERS drummer **MATT HARRISON** suggested a local supergroup featuring **REEDIE REEDIES** and **THE MANHOLE** lead vocals, **JOHN LOWRIE** on guitar, **JOHN BORINS** on bass, **RAFORD SPURGEON** on drums, **KEE ANDERSON** on harmonica, and **RYAN PEPPER** as the band's chief songwriter. I dug it.

But that vision doesn't stop there. He envisions Higher Ground's **MICHAEL COTTERILL** managing the supergroup.

Rangan and Augie play the **Music Box Inn**—handbells, handbells, vintage accordions, **SEBASTIAN LARSEN** twanging the knobs and faders, and **JASSEY LARRY** **SHAW** on lights. All that's missing is one more. May we suggest **MATT LINDBY**? **PERFECT?**

VERONICA'S MATT MARTINIS expressed appreciation for Signal Kitchen's consummate radness. He writes that the venue "has stepped in to fill an unmet need in the Burlington scene that has been left vacant for whatever reason, for too long. They've created a downtown performance space that bridges the gap between the Monkey House and Higher Ground." He commends the club's "blend fit of taste" and ability to "read what the town wants to hear." Couldn't agree more.

Harrington bandoneon **CHRISTIAN CORCORAN** school soothed off-vocals sentiment. The premise of the **STATE** documentary, A Band Called Death, during the Vermont Film Festival was perhaps the highlight of the year. The flick, she writes, had people "laughing, crying, laughing and cheering over and over."

So many people mentioned the Devil's doc that I almost regret going to **WEIRD AL** at the Flynn that night instead. But I don't think **CHRISTIAN'S MATT MARTINIS** does. That above he writes highlights the "just how important Weird Al has been for pop culture."

Mark Hagen's band, however, weighed in on Metal Monday, the weekly heavy-metal showcase Hagen

has curated at Nectar's over the last year. The band writes that the residency has been a "game changer" for an "increasingly prominent metal community," and that it's becoming "a destination for rehearsal and rehearsal heavy metal acts." It also credits **MARK REINHOLD**'s weekly Friday Night Open Jam around the corner at HillBourge for providing an outlet for musicians who might not otherwise have a place to play.

Baldrey, the raunch bop at Nectar's, acknowledged the community spirit in Burlington that has led to more folks working together for common causes — Nectar's and Higher Ground teaming up on certain shows, for example — and the increasing symbiosis between venues and indie promoters.

"Our little city of Burlington thrives as an community and working together," writes Baldrey. "It's a beautiful thing and I have to sing of it!"

In the words of **SHANNON PARHAM**, I second that emotion.

BiteTorrent

The **BRITT WILHELM** Holiday Ho Ho Ho slowdown is among my favorite annual holiday traditions. The Bloody Toek Tuesday bunch will present a cavalcade of local stars offering renditions of Christmas classics this Thursday, December 20, at Club Marmonian. No word yet on who might

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⑧ ALL TIME LOW FEBRUARY

⑨ JOHNNY WINTER APRIL 2013

⑩ MCLOVINS JUNE

⑪ CHURCHILL JULY

⑫ LOTUS AUGUST

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⑭ MAX CREEK OCTOBER

⑮ LOTUS LAND: A TRIBUTE TO RUSH NOVEMBER

BY CAM ROLLES

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soundbites

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 66

be in said carload, but it's a safe bet Hughes will have some Bloody Mary Tuesday evening on hand and a number of special guests. I don't know about you, but it's just not Christmas for me until I hear **MICHAEL BUBLE'S** version of "Blue Christmas." That reminds me...

...of my other favorite annual holiday tradition, Blue Christmas at Nectar's on Christmas night, Tuesday, December 24. Once you've unwrapped the presents, picked clean the Christmas goose and had enough of pretending to enjoy the close company of your relatives, wind down at this annual blues bash led by Vermont's own and blues-hang master **ROB BYRD**. I'll be out of town this year, so I'll miss it when I've known since college, so if you're looking for a last-minute gift for your local music scribe, just swing by Nectar's on Christmas and send him my best.

One last holiday show to note before we start marking New Year's Eve plans—local rockers **SHREWD** will present "A Very Shrewd Xmas" at Levity in Burlington this Sunday, December 23. It's a what they've got planned, but given that the show is happening at a comedy club, I'm afraid one comedy club, infinity may ensue.

Since he started writing and recording solo material, **APHIS RYER**, guitarist **DAN COOPER** has become one of Vermont's most highly regarded songwriters. His latest album, **Elsewhere in Between**, was named the best local album of 2013 by many respondents to the aforementioned poll of Vermont musicians, and with good reason. It was excellent and revealed Cooper to be fully harnessing his impressive abilities. Cooper's little brother, **SAM HARRIS**, is also a singer and



songwriter. Oh, as Zack duPree writes in an email, "the apple doesn't fall far from the tree-tors." In an attempt to "reach in on the brothers market," the duPree boys will turn up for an early show at Nectar's this Friday, December 21, and I'd like to see part of the long tradition of great sibling acts, including the **STANLEY BROTHERS**, the **PRICE BROTHERS**, the **ARMAS BROTHERS**, **KANON AND NELSON**—Maybe not so much those last three.

Congrats to the location whose latest record, **Believe Me**, was chosen as one of the top-10 indie-pop albums of 2013 by popmatters.com. The record took several others, just behind, reveals by **ILLUSIONIST** and **ADVANCE BASE**, and just ahead of **Young and Old** by **Young**. That's some good company.



Last but not least, local jazz rockers **MYTHS** are returning to Nectar's this Friday, December 21, in remembrance of their late bassist, **BRIAN ROBERTS**, who was 24, drowned this summer while swimming at Huntington Gorge. They'll be joined by whiskey-grass aficionados **OUR TOWN** and banjo-faced act **BLACK HOLE**. ☺



Listening In

Dear *Agile*, this week's totally self-indulgent column segment in which I share a sampling of what was on my iPod: rummable eight-track player a.k.a. iPhone.

DAVID STEVENS:
Chopped and screwed

NAMOOG ARTISTS:
Festivals?

NAMOOG ARTISTS:
The Time Life Treasury of Christmas

NAMOOG ARTISTS:
South Dressers

NAMOOG: "Silent Night"

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Montpelier, VT

CLUB DATES

music

(all times listed are in EST, unless otherwise noted)

TUE 30 4 PM

CHARLIE & DJ CHAS
[adult] 10 p.m. Free

ROBIN PRODUCENTS TAPERIN
[adult] Thursday [various] 9 p.m. Free

SATY'S STEPPIN' Karen Paiva
Tuesday 6 p.m. Free

WHAMMY BAR Christmas
card singalong with June
Marie [various] 9 p.m. Free

CHAMPAIGN VALLEY
[city limits] Tracy with Tap
and Polkaville, Tyra in
the Valley

THE BIGGEST LAUGH
Gabe Arnett [adult] 9 p.m. Free

TWO-BROTHERS TAVERN [ad]
Steve [various] 10 p.m. Free

NORTHERN

BBQ & KARAOKE Connie Ricki
[adult] [karaoke] 10 p.m. Free

HOOT & PLATE Tweets and
Laughter [adult] 10 p.m. Free

PANCAKE PIE CO. Americanica,
country music & fun, Free,
Taste Yellowbird [adult] included
[adult] 7:30 p.m. Free

PROGRAM

HOMOPHOBIC INSTRUMENTS
Gary Preuss [jazz]
[concert] 10 p.m. Free

BIVE RIBS 1 Karaoke [adult]
9 p.m. Free

TRINCA CAFE & NIGHTCLUB
Carrie Night [adult]
Entertainment, 3 p.m. Free

THRASH Thursday Thursday
with SURFER [various] 10:30 p.m.
[adult] Free

PROGRAM

PARADISE The Light and the
Dark with the Repetition is it
[adult] Free

CHARLIE B. (BLISTER RHYTHM

Reps [adult] 9 p.m. Free

GREEN INSTITUTE TAVERN

DJ Jimmy P [adult] 9 p.m.
\$5

TELEFUNK MUSIC HALL 1 a.m.

Orchestra [adult] 10:30 p.m. \$8

CHAMPLAIN SILENT

[city limits] City [adult]
Carrie Petty with Tap [adult]
Entertainment [adult] 9 p.m. Free

ON TIME TO BE FAIR [adult]

Karen Krueger [adult] 8 p.m. Free

TWO-BROTHERS TAVERN

House Party [adult], Free

NORTHERN

BBQ & KARAOKE Al & Pete [adult]
10 p.m. [karaoke]

PARADE [adult]

Entertainment [adult] 9 p.m. \$5

HOOT & PLATE Hardtimes

[adult] 8 p.m. Free

RUMBLE MOUNTAIN

Friday night 9 p.m.

Entertainment with DJ Bakahn

[adult] 10 p.m. Free

REGIONAL

MONSPELLE [steamer] [adult]

9 p.m. Free

THRASH Friday night DJ Hece

[adult] 10 p.m. \$5

THREE HOUSE CLUB Club

Entertainment [adult] 9 p.m. \$10

SAT. 22

BURLINGTON AREA

BACKSTAGE PAR The
Heskin [adult] 10 p.m. Free

CRUNCH & HAM

Restaurant [adult] 10 p.m. Free

COURT MUSICHORN

Entertainment [adult] 10 p.m. Free

DRAG QUEEN SLAUGHTER

[adult] 10 p.m. Free

HALFLANDGE Zach Woods

[jazz ensemble] 10 p.m.

Free Entertainment with Jim Bob

Douglas & Alan Perry [house]

10 p.m. Free

JP'S PUB [adult] with Megan

Maple [adult] 10 p.m. Free

LEIVITY holiday comedy

showcase with James

Holiday Stages [adult] and Jessica

Reverie [adult] 10 p.m. Free

MAINEPORT REGION LOUNGE

Rader [adult] [adult] 10 p.m. Free

MINKEY MOUSE Holiday

House [adult] Birthday Party [adult]

James Deegan [adult] [adult] 9 p.m.

MINIATURA [adult] [adult]

Entertainment [adult] 7 p.m. Free

MINIATURA [adult] [adult]

Entertainment [adult] 7 p.m. Free

ON THE RAIL & GRILL High

Rails [adult] [adult] 10 p.m. Free

PACIFIC PLACE TAVERN

Entertainment [adult] 9 p.m. Free

RADIO RUMBLE Rocky Mountain

[adult] 10 p.m. Free Radio

Rockabilly Union with Ed

Clarke, Vocal variety, Joe

Asher [adult] 10:30 p.m. Free

REED HOLLOW/HOLLYJAZZ

[jazz ensemble] 11 a.m. Free

REED HOLLOW/HOLLYJAZZ

[jazz ensemble] 11:30 p.m. Free

REED HOLLOW/HOLLYJAZZ

[jazz ensemble] 11:30 p.m.

Scene Poll



Michael Roberts (Wooden Dinosaur)

- Local album: Michael Chorney and Dolmar General, *Deposition of the Ordinary*
- Nonlocal album: *Sleep and the Moment*, Longtime Companion
- Concert: J.P. Harris and the Tough Chicks at the Union Church in Brattleboro

Bryan Parmeece (Parmaga)

- Local album: Farm, Farm
- Nonlocal album: Chairlift, *Something*
- Concert: Mercury at the Flynn Main Stage

Zack duPont

- Local album: Michael Chorney and Dolmar General, *Deposition of the Ordinary*
- Nonlocal album: Ty Segall Band, *Blah-Blah-Blah* (might as well choose this one over their 2012 release, too. *Twins* this is not.)
- Concert: Brett Lunde and Peter Krag, two superhuman Vermont-based musicians that everyone wants in their band. And if you don't want them, you just never heard them play.

Rob Larkin (The Shandies)

- Local album: The Tom, The Truc
- Nonlocal album: Ty Segall Band, *Blah-Blah-Blah* (might as well choose this one over their 2012 release, too. *Twins* this is not.)
- Concert: Raugh Francis at the Freightliner and the Cave Boys at the Radio Barn birthday party

Bon Alesheik (Vermont Joy Parade)

- Local album: Levelheaded Heights, *Loveful Heights*
- Nonlocal album: Tik Tok, *The Green Country*
- Concert: Arrested Development and the Royal Bonsai of the Monkey House
- Wishcard: Hearing Sandal Peron's com-

position for televisions that played on an actual copper plate in an antique instrument box was amazing.

Gregory Douglass

- Local album: Anna Bracken, *Young Man in America* (Would make Jimi Mitchell jealous.)
- Nonlocal album: Josee Hoag, *The Human That Jack Built* (Would make Kate Bush jealous.)
- Concert: Vermont Symphony Orchestra at the Flynn Mansard
- Wild card: Arrested Development performance reminded me of how much talent there is right here in the Green Mountains!

Greg Davis

- Local album: Chris Wessman, *Megapix* (Chris' audience hasn't aged with an age; 20-track song cycle possibly about the end of the world and the beginning of a new universe. Did you know there is a crystal under Mount Snow?)
- Nonlocal album: Editions Megs was the record label of the year, for sure. Almost everything they released that year was excellent, especially the Monk Bell records and the Reconstruction EP series.
- Concert: Kurt Weissen at Waring: Madison and Diamond, MM Young, A Studio in the Garden at Stowe's Headhouse

Jason Cooley (Blue Button)

- Local album: Ryan Power, *I Don't Want to Die*
- Nonlocal album: Japandroids, *Celefritution Clock*; Godspeed You! Black Emperor, *Allegroph* (Don't Ascent) (One I can play at work, and one I can't.)
- Concert: Ben Howard at the Monkey House. (These days I much more enjoy watching a band happy to play their music instead of trying to look cool and withdrawn. Google them.)

Rebecca Koppydinski (Nudia Veritas)

- Local album: Farm, Farm
- Nonlocal album: The Ex, *Observe*
- Concert: Joseph Franscini

Matt Rogers (MSR Presents)

- Local album: Mervin Smith, *Mervin Smith*
- Nonlocal album: Time Drifts, *Conceive*
- Concert: Thornton Moore at University Unitarian Church in Burlington
- Wild card: Very excited to see what the Making Waves festival will look like this year. Should be a good one! ☺

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- Elmbridge Ski and Bait 82 River Street, Montpelier VT
- Tahquamenon Lodge 17, Eastern Ave, St. Johnsbury VT
- Golf and Ski Warehouse on Route 10A, West Lebanon NH
- The Alpine Shop 100 Williston Road, South Burlington VT
- R and R Beverage 12 Broad Street, (yesterdays) VT
- The Ski Barn 100 Main Street, Burlington VT
- Glass Mountain-Coffee Villager Center and Cafe Whiteface Mountain VT
- Mountain Goat on Main Street, Killington NH
- Laney's Skier and Repair in Stowe, Montpelier and St. Albans VT
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MUSIC Sat 02-19-11 PM

SUN. 23

champlain valley

CITY LIMITS: Bronx Party with
Sister Hazel (top 40), 8 p.m., Free.
THE BREWERY TAPROOM
Maine Ave (back) Taproom, 83
3rd Street (top 40), 10 p.m.,
Free.

northern

BIG SISTER: 2 AM (444)
7:30 p.m., Free/Reserve
CROWNS: The final Friday
of the month (back) 7-9:30 p.m.,
Free.

HAPPY HOUR: Abby Jones
and the Drifters (back), 9
p.m., Free.

IRON FIST PLACE: The Dupont
Brothers, longer songs, 8:30
p.m., Free.

PANIX PIE CO.: (Keweenaw)
TRAP! Authority (rock), 8
p.m., Free.

central

INDIANOLA: Return of the Ply
(dmt), 10 p.m., Free.

TRINI CAFÉ & RESTAURANT:
All night, dinner party with DJ
Tesse (top 40), 8 p.m., Free.

burlington area

HALIBURTON: Slicker (back)
10 p.m., Free.

LENITY: A Very Shady Show
Ticket \$ 20 p.m., Free.

NECTAR & McVAD: Reggae
Night with Big Dog & Dennis B
9 p.m., Free.

ON THE RAIL & GRILL: Ranch
with Robby Young (regional), 10
p.m., Free.

RABBIT REAM: Salmon Sessions
with the Rabbit Sessions
7 p.m., Free. Friday, Friday
in Imaginary Brother (back),
8 p.m., Free. Dance from Folk
folk rock, 9 p.m., Free. 2000+
song benefit, 10 p.m., Free. Double
Camp Sleepovers (seminar),
9 p.m., Free.

southern

RABBIT: Just In Time (regional)

ROCKIN' ROLL: 11:30 p.m., Free.

POSITIVE FRIES: Winter Ball

with DJ with Antoinette Quarters,

Heidi Price, 9 p.m., New Club

11pm, 10:30 p.m., \$12.

SECOND AGENDA: Ben

Congdon (vocals, songstress),

8 p.m., \$20-30 donation.

northern

BIG SISTER: David Langford
(jazz), 10:30 p.m., Gonkons
Gonkonz (regional), 11:30 p.m., John
John (jazz), 12:30 a.m., Gonkons

SWEET CHURCH PAGE TURNER:
Vintage VS (sax & flute),
Halley (polka), 10:30 p.m.,
Free.

MON. 24

members:

MODERN PLACE: Seth
Reynolds (proto-acoustic
blues), 9 p.m., Free.

TUE. 25

burlington area

URITY: Standup Comedy
open Mic (stand-up), 7:30 p.m.,
Free.

NECTAR: Annual Photo
Christmas with the Greg Unit
Band 8 p.m., Free.

WED 02-24 PTO

To Whom It Concerns

for the better part of the last decade,
ref-folk-folk **MYSTIC MAMA** has been a staple of locally conscious music in Vermont.
Fusing folk stadium and rock aggression with hip-hop attitude — no mention beats
— the band as high culture is in a high minded.
Agenda play Red Square on Burlington.



SAT 22/24 SECOND AGENDA (REGGAE, FOLK, HIP HOP)

SATURDAY
JAN 19

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EARLY BIRD SPECIAL 190 thru Dec 26th

REVIEW *this*

Loveful Heights, Loveful Heights

BY KELLY RILEY CHAPMAN/BRATTLEBORO REFORMER

In a town like Brattleboro, a fine line often separates the crew-wrapping and staffing the hip local coffee joint — take a gauze — and a hashed small-city “supergroup.” Such is the case with Loveful Heights.

While at first Loveful Heights is a stripped-down acoustic duo consisting of Steve Clifford and Matt Wright (of Matt Wright & the Indomitable Acid Stand), the list of Brattleboro heavy hitters contributing their talents to the pair's self-titled, debut full-length album is impressive.

Throughout the album, Clifford and Wright share guitar, double and vocal duties and construct a beautifully harmonized soundscape over which bass (Tyler Miller), percussion (David Fischer and Eric Keeler), cello (Selene Caldwell) and pedal steel (Chris Lomax) — to name just a few — provide an unfeelingnuminous atmosphere.

Teleport, Bad for Business

BY KELLY RILEY CHAPMAN/BRATTLEBORO REFORMER

In 1991, Starless Teleport delivered a veritable masterpiece of shambolically earnest, blue-eyed soul called *Last in Space* (Foster that occupied a similarly fractured place as its big-rock contemporaries Hall & Oates, George and Kenny Loggins). That record... “I’m sorry what?” The album came out in 1991! And most of Teleport had barely been born as 1991 was holding its teeth. Let’s try this again:

In 2011... wait... Starless Teleport delivered a veritable masterpiece of shambolically earnest, blue-eyed soul called *Last in Space* (Foster that evaded the laydown of soft rock superstars Hall & Oates and Kenny Loggins, duh!).

The record was an intricately conceived and expertly executed homage to a bygone era of American pop that is often worded — with good reason, in certain cases — as “every conceivable cliché.” But behind the fender cleanliness and white-tiger-skin-eng lechery of the genre, a great deal of musical ingenuity can be found.



notebooks like the tabs (an indie-punkish instrument number in the banjo) and the occasional non-dancing explanation (a somewhat lesser-known banjo instrument) introduce more than a hint of the banjo into the clearly travel-inspired songs that inhabit Loveful Heights’ debut. “The problem,” confided to one Lee Anderson — Wright’s husband and the proprietor of the previously mentioned cafe, Radio Bean — “is anyone and any song will sound like a travel song.” Loveful Heights’ a consistent, breezy quality. The room in which those songs



by those willing to hear it. On their recently released sophomore album, *Bad for Business*, Teleport pull away soft rock’s plush velvet robe and expose the raw — if a little hairy — musicalure underneath.

Where *Last in Space* most clearly followed the lounge set forth by the aforementioned Hall & Oates, *Bad for Business* aligns with another era contemporary, Steely Dan — and particularly the Donald Fagen-penned contributions to that breed’s canon.

The record opens on “Deal,” which ambitiously pairs Wheeler’s sleek keyboard bops, and is accented by Adam Bellier’s gold-decked guitar. A trashing foundation is cast into motion

well forever east deserves as much credit as does any of the players. It’s an irrefutable presence.

The songs themselves range from adaptations of poetry classics (Juliette Lowrie Stevenson’s “Land of No”) to traditional (“Dumplins”) to howsoever, weirdly original (“Freelover”). Vocal harmonies, which are no doubt the focal point of this record, are somewhat reminiscent of Foster’s softer extensions — songs like “The Park” and “Lonely Lonely” but where Frost avails the banjo, Clifford and Wright have each other’s same-room voices to bounce off of. This small but noteworthy difference gives them such a kick more organic feel than Frost, with all of her talent, can achieve. That’s right, aquatic.

The ease with which Loveful Heights is performed, recorded — by Brattleboro’s unapproachable Ryan Power — and delivered is truly a marvel.

Loveful Heights is available at cd Baby.com/cdbyArtist.

SEAN HOOD

by Sean Murray’s efficient bass lines and Kevin Bell’s delicate drum work. But this intricate, pace-inflected map is all window dressing for Wheeler, who as lead vocalist sings in a drowsy croon that is at once breezily self-assured and vulnerable.

Wheeler’s discerning, Götter-esque delivery is bolstered by his bandmates’ crystalline backing harmonies, which shimmer throughout — especially on cuts such as moonlight-worship “Anybody in There,” “Lie Goblem” and many others closer. “Bad for Business.” They frame Wheeler’s playfully progressive rambles and wistful style with flair.

It would be easy to dismiss *Teleport* as some home recording. But that would be a mistake. The band is here about updating or honoring their past peers, those picking up on the puny bones their grandfather unearths left off. *Bad for Business* is an innovative iteration filled with dynamic and incisive compositions, superb performances and, well, yeah, a whole lot blue-eyed soul.

Bad for Business by Teleport is available at teleportband.com.

KELLY RILEY

Compost Food Scraps @ CSWD

Don’t trash your food scraps!

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DEC 21

THE HOLIDAY
NO-HO-HO-DOWN
IN THE CITY OF BETHESDA

SAT

1 ROCK FOR RUDY
SOLOSHOW AND BLACK ROCKY

SAT
DEC 22

WHO DIGGITY?
90'S NIGHT
WITH WEST COAST 90'S MUSIC

SAT
DEC 23

RETROCHROME
WITH THE JETTY JAZZ BAND

SUN
DEC 24

MI YARD
REGGAE NIGHT
WITH SOULFUL SOUNDS & DANCE

SUN
DEC 25

CLOSED FOR
CHRISTMAS EVE

TUE
DEC 26

THE GREG IZOR
BLUES BAND

TUE
DEC 27

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TUE 25 NOV 2012

WED. 26

Burlington area

CLUB HISTORIQUE The Rednecks' reenactments from Lévis of the 1800s that had 150 in '12.**PRUNY'S D.J.** Karaoke with Pruny's 10 p.m., Free.**HALLOUNCE** Scott Hungate (Hogleg, Squatwax) 9 p.m., Free. Rescheduled from DJ Dogg (Mudflat) 10 p.m., Free.**APPEAL** Karaoke with Hogleg 10 p.m., Free.**MAMMOTH PIZZA & PUB** Open mic with Amy's Lungs 10 p.m., Free.**HEISTER'S** Heister brothers band 7:30 p.m., \$10 p.m. (includes 19+).**ON THE RAIL BAR & GRILL** Acoustic session 7:30 p.m., Free.**RADIO BEAM** 10 a.m. Saturday, 8 p.m. Free.**RED SQUALE** Zach Bufford (Liongen) (singer-songwriter) 7 p.m., Free. DJ Carl (Pop Hop), 10 p.m., Free.**SKINNY PANCAKE** Josh Pardo and Brett Lester (Food 910) 7 p.m., \$5 10 p.m., donation.**CEMETERY****BESTED** Acoustic blues jam with the usual suspects 8 p.m., Free.**TREE HOUSE** Open Mic with Jackie LaRoux 7 p.m., Free.**WHISKEY BAR** Open Mic 6:30 p.m., Free.**champlain valley****CITY LIMITS** Acoustic with Let It Rock (rescheduled), 7:30 p.m., Free.**ON THE FREE KITCHEN** open 12:30 p.m.-8 p.m., Free.**TWO BROTHERS TEAHOUSE** Thesis 10 p.m., \$15 p.m., Free.**moosehead****MISS IN A PLATE** Jason Wirkkula (signing) 8:30 p.m., Free.**regional****MONDOFOLIO** Open Mic 9 p.m., Free. ©**FRIDAY STARLINE RHYTHM BOYS (BROOKLYN)****Close Up the Honky-Tonks**

In 2008, local rockabilly veterans **STARLINE RHYTHM BOYS** delivered what many consider to be their signature album, *Lore of Charlie O's World Famous*. That raucous record captured the trio in strands of bebop, delivering classic honky-tonk hooks to eager fans in the dusty corners of Montpelier's great pub joint. This Friday, December 21, the boys return to Charlie-O's for a pre-holiday howdown.



This week:
Dan Bolles

Seven Days' music editor reviews the top 10 Vermont singles of 2012.



Season two fueled by:



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Wild at Art

"Beguiled by the Wild: The Art of Charley Harper" at the Montshire Museum of Science

Charley Harper was brilliant, his sense of art measured as clever design, bold color and whimsical charm. He also had a wry talent for witty wordplay (his *owl* and) was a prolific illustrator and graphic designer who became best known for his energetic prints featuring modern, stylized images of animals. His work influenced innumerable posters, magazine articles and books — notably those that of ecology. Though Harper's accessible images were suitable for children's illustrations, the unique style he called "natural realism" was in fact highly sophisticated. As he liked to say, "I try to leave everything out."

The implementation is apparent in a 20-piece exhibit titled "Beguiled by the Wild: The Art of Charley Harper," currently at the Montshire Museum of Science in Norwich, The Virginia Living Museum caused the touring exhibit from works in a private collection. At the Montshire, there's a local focus: a companion show from three-year residents at the Center for the Citizens' Studies on White River Junction. In a clear fall full, their assignment was to create a one-page cartoon about an aspect of the natural world using Harper's visual techniques.

Harper was especially fond of birds — a quota of 20 is affixed to the wall, says, "I'd much rather draw birds. There are more possibilities." Perhaps because the man could do a lot with circles. He handily depicts an owl, for example, in the piece titled "Phenomenous." Unlike Harper's more colorful prints, this one uses the brown and gray creature against a black background; it is, after all, nightime when owls snare their prey. In this case, it's a chick, which is part of the artwork past and rhymes-filled caption: "How do you like your meal, matey? Not the direct Harvard trout — it may be costly, but it fills your belly." As for the naturally unpossessed reader, Harper concludes: "He was planning to eat in when the owl dropped by — it's only cause in life that he gets taken out for dinner!"

In a work titled "Pelican Party," a gull is acting as "maffet for his gal" (right), straight from the cover of *Brown Pelican*. It's a particularly dandy print called "Big Mac Attack," in which a macaw pecks over a fence,

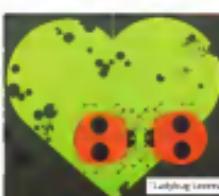


THE UNIQUE STYLE HE CALLED "MINIMAL REALISM" WAS IN FACT HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED.

eyes glowing in the darkness food on the orange-red semicircle on a tripod in the foreground's backlit grill.

Harper's texts sound cheery, but he doesn't shy away from the realities of the food chain. His animals set like insects in the intricate past and rhymes-filled captions: "How do you like your meal, matey? Not the direct Harvard trout — it may be costly, but it fills your belly." As for the naturally unpossessed reader, Harper concludes: "He was planning to eat in when the owl dropped by — it's only cause in life that he gets taken out for dinner!"

In Harper's ingenious arrangements of organic, geometric shapes, each could serve as a graphic-design primer, his skill as a printmaker in nothing short of inspirational. The serigraphy is an exasperatingly difficult medium involving multiple stage and layers of color. One master brethes the whole deal! For an artist who relies on snap, sharp edges, the process is torturous. It's important



to keep that process in mind: when viewing Harper's works, these days, we're more accustomed to looking at digitally produced artwork, however innovative and well designed, does not require such a

study hard

Harper had the consciousness of a conservationist and let his talents to essay a wildlife organization, this exhibit includes, for example, a herpetocultural poster he created for the Blackwater National Park Service, beyond with creatures and houses. And there's his poster titled "Backhoesaurus," in which a bulldozer digging up annual habitat, displacing a number of birds, flowers, worms and bugs. The artist knew what a presumably commendable development to a "monolithic disorder" the landscape. Not so funny, that?

Harper spent most of his adult life in Cincinnati where he attended, and later taught at, the Art Academy. He also worked with his wife and fellow artist at Harper Studio, their only child, first, eventually joined them.

In 2006, the mayor of Cincinnati proclaimed December 5 Charley Harper Day, in conjunction with an exhibit at the Contemporary Arts Center of "mid-century pancreatic and contemporary power." The exhibit was inspired by Harper's minimalist graphics and fashion designer Todd Oldham, who said that the older artist's work possessed a "dynamically playful aesthetic." Indeed, only a hardened cynic could remain unmoved by a happy, after-meeting Harper's prints. In 2000, Oldham published a book of Harper's work titled *Charley Harper: An Illustrated Life*.

As sure a family-friendly museum mission, the scrubbed-chophorophore dual exhibits is a pleasantly airy assortment of dogs, bears, rabbits and other noses — cutouts of children exploring the surrounding lands as green stills, the Harper and GES works occupying a spacious second-floor area represent the Montshire's conscious effort to enhance its reputation as a kids' science museum that isn't just for kids and science lessons. Offering a joyful, old-soul art exhibit is a good way at that direction.

Indeed, as exhibit designer Ruth Salazar says, "I've convinced that there's connection in how scientists and artists do their stuff. It's all creativity." ☐

PAMELA FOLSTON

Reviewed by the N.Y.C. Art of Charley Harper" motion at the Museum of Science, through February 5, montshire.org

CALL TO ARTISTS

ART OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUTH
Art is fun, meaningful art comes to life
through the lens of young
creatives. Any fine commercial
nonprofit or educational art project, first time/young
artist, first time/young
artist.

COLOR STORY PHOTO CONTEST
Calling submissions. Deadline
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50 excellent use of color devices

ONGOING

BURLINGTON-VERMONT

1ST ANNUAL STRAWBERRY STAFFORD SHOW Local artists such as Holly E. Shadl Jude Bond, Jerome Nadeau, Leanne Charron, Laurence Lachance, and others will sell their unique items from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday, December 21 at the Strawberry Inn in Stowe. Info: 802-545-9418.

ANNEKA SCHRADER Paintings. In the greenhouse. Info: 802-863-4847.

MELISSA BISSETT Homearts. As the saying goes... "An artist's studio is her home." Through December 31 at the Evelyn House, Burlington. Info: 802-863-4847.

JEN ALLENBERG "Snow Art." Mixed media art. Through December 31 at Pinstripes. Burlington. Info: 802-863-4847.

KRISTEN GUTTMAN "Everything Must Go." Paintings. Drawings. Sculpture and Handmade Jewelry in Glass. A retrospective. Through January 31 at Pinstripes. Burlington. Info: 802-863-4847.

CALEDONIA WILD Two- and three-dimensional works made from gathered materials by Reesa Geer. Until November 30. Caledonia Center. Reesa Geer. Info: 802-863-4847.

CHRISTIAN TURGEA ALEXANDRE & BRUNO JEROME New paintings by Christian Turgea and Bruno Jérôme. Akenberry Studio. Until December 31 at the Vermont Studio Center. A joint exhibition by the brothers, Bruno Jérôme, a painter offering frontier scenes to the canine victims of Hurricane Sandy. Through January 31 at Lazarus-Jones Gallery in Stowe. Info: 802-863-3753.

CHRISTOPHER HARRIS "Hawks, Hawks, Hawks" for the winter season. Through December 31 at Best Shorefronts. See separate listing. Burlington. Info: 802-863-4235.

KAREN HIRST Textile arts paintings by the English artist presented through May. Madeline's is stainless steel lighted sculptures. Jeanne Lemay's seasonal artwork and ceramic pieces. Karen Hirst's textile art. Through December 31 at the movie theater in Putney. Info: 802-325-4771.

CHRIS HIRSH "The Love of Light" photograph series. Prints available. Ver Miroir Editions. Through December 31 at ArtSpace 518, 101 Main St., the Hirsh's Room in Burlington. Info: 802-863-4847.

CHRIS JANN DIAZ-GARCIA "A View From the Inside Out." Color photographs of stories from the sensible. See separate listing. Burlington Community Art Center. Through January 31 at All Eyes on You, 301 Main Street. Burlington. Info: 802-863-4847.

you walk, we want to see it, info: chrisjann@verizon.net.

GARRETT KELLY "Artists on Artists" art show and sale for the 2013 annual National Sculpture Symposium exhibition of artists at the Art Center in Stowe. Deadline January 4. Info: kellyart@comcast.net.

CREATIVE COMPETITION, 2014

Presented by the Fine Art Gallery. Six categories. Prizes: First place value up to \$1,000, runner-up \$500, third place \$250, fourth place \$100, fifth place \$50, sixth place \$25. Info: 802-863-4847.

GRUB HAP Art After Hours presented by the open-air, self-built Burlington ArtLab, through December 31 at Stowe Chevrolet in South Burlington. Info: 802-863-4847.

HEATHER KELLOGG "Folk Art." Photography and paintings of what the artist imagines as old New England houses. Through December 31 at Old Royal King Ring Shoppe at Gathland Inn. Info: 802-387-5587.

ELIZABETH KLEINER "Intricate Imaginative" mixed media works featuring fragmented fragments of found studio debris. Through December 31 at Blackwell Galleria. Info: 802-863-3100.

SAFETY FOR STRANGERS Vermont artists' visual responses to the question: What would you do if it's strange? Is it for the holiday? Through December 31 at the Vermont Folklife Festival. Info: 802-863-4847.

GRUSS GARNET "Painting" using Janice Barker and as an addition, purchased by Miriam Lampert. Studio visitation invited. Info: 802-863-4847.

GROUP HOMECOMING AFTERNOON Works by members of the studio art program. Info: 802-863-4847.

GRUSS GARNET Works by London Lampert. Many pieces by Carol Lund, Kay Green, Clark Stevens, Edith Tolentino-Nelson and Ross Henneman. Info: 802-863-4847.

HARLEY REED Mixed media pieces inspired from off-the-wall samples and local items made from pine and other wood products. Through December 31 at the Vermont Art Center. Info: 802-863-4847.

JACOB HORNIG "A World of Possibilities."

KELLOGG, MURKIN & ROSEN An ever-renewing exhibition that uses ideas from the visual arts of history to inspire art world's own sense of entrepreneurship, image, wisdom and originality. Through December 31 at the Vermont Art Center. Info: 802-863-4847.

JASON HORNIG "Love is a Journey" from Info: Burlington. Info: 802-863-4847.

JANE LUCILLE KANTER Works on paper, paintings. Through December 31 at Middlebury College. Info: 802-323-2200.

JANE LUCILLE KANTER "The House of Images"—a photographic collection of landscapes and female figures which reflect their various lives across the country. Through January 31 at Middlebury College. Info: 802-323-2200.

JENNA ENBERGER "Come Sing With Us!" Musicalized children's live performances and other media. Through January 31 at Peter City Children's in South Burlington. Info: 802-863-2554.

JESEKE ALABARAN "The Purple Garden of Roots" paintings by the Vietnamese artist. The Purple Garden at 31 First Square, Middlebury. Info: 802-368-3141.

JILL MADDISON Jewelry based on nature. Skye Waylay. Jim Hobson. Photo synths, in Guelph, Ontario.

of every search, in respect, respect for
the environment, in respect for
creativity and for the community.

RECEPTIONS

LATEX/LATEX/BLUEBIRD/WEAVING

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH Reception for the late latex and weaving exhibition. Info: 802-863-4847.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH "Sand Dunes" and "Cathedral of Rocks" landscapes in oil. Exhibition through December 31 at Burlington ArtSouth in South Burlington. Info: 802-863-7648.

JOHN ANDERSON "Drawing, 2008-2012" charcoal on charcoal. The last six years of sketchy drawings of people, places and things. Through December 31 at the Vermont Art Center. Info: 802-863-4847.

JASON HARRAS "Full in Line" photographs and video projections that aim to highlight and reveal the relationships between related to masculinity, social issues and the world. Through January 31 at the VCA Center in Middlebury. Info: 802-323-7718.

JULINE BARANDUN & RAINA LEE "Mother/Father" prints by Barandun. Quilts by Lee. Through January 31 at Vermont Jewelers on the Langton. Info: 802-863-2333.

JOT MICKENS-SHREE "The Forces of Light" oil paintings of the Vermont landscape. Through January 2 at Phippsburg Hall. Info: 802-863-3883.

JULIE F. WALTERS "Painting on Transparency" the art of the New England Thimble. Through January 31 at Vermont Felt Table in Burlington. Info: 802-423-4239.

JULYETTE RAUER HAGEMAN "Painted Sculpture" photographs of art paintings of denim created by the artist. Info: 802-863-4847.

KATHRYN VAN WAGEN "Women and Landscapes" painted portraits and panels created by the Vermont artist. Through January 31 at Loft 200 in Burlington. Info: 802-863-4847.

KELLY SCHWARTZ "A Day for Painting" by the namesake in a day. Through January 31 at the gallery at Phoenix Island at 1000 Junction. Info: 802-779-7009.

LARRY VAN LOOS An exhibit featuring photos of and excepts from artworks with women who are accomplished in their work, an inspiration to others and examples of excellence in their field. Located at the Vermont Art Center. Info: 802-863-4847.

MARKEY Art, crafts and other locally-made products from around Stowe. On Opening Saturday December 6, 10am-1pm. Info: 802-863-8087.

LEAHY-ROBERTS & ROBERTS Landscapes and organic pencil sketches. Through December 31 at the Vermont Art Center. Info: 802-863-4847.

LINCOLN MALLORAN Impasto paintings from the artist. Sunday Studio! Info: 802-863-2420-2507.

LOLA HARRIS & ANTHONY CARLSON A visibility window painting and a framed print of the Vermont Champion-Land Trust. The night January 31 at the Green Library in Stowe. Info: 802-863-4847.

LINDA BRAKE & JEFFREY CARLSON A visibility window painting and a framed print of the Vermont Champion-Land Trust. The night January 31 at the Green Library in Stowe. Info: 802-863-4847.

Flynnbridge in Burlington. Reservation required. Info: 802-863-4847. Info: 802-863-4847.

THREE CAFE & NO CAFE

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH The Cafe Collective, a group of international artists who meet at London's 21st Century Cafe on 3rd St. & Congress. Info: 802-863-4847.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5TH "The Art of the Mouth" exhibition. Info: 802-863-4847.

SANDRA DUNN "Sand Dunn" and "Cathedral of Rocks" landscapes in oil. Exhibition through December 31 at Burlington ArtSouth in South Burlington. Info: 802-863-7648.

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OPEN DAILY 10-5
TUES DEC. 24TH



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info: 802-999-3630

TRAVIS GRAMINS
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SUSAN WAD
info: 802-863-2333

MARIA MULIER
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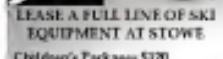
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art

Subj/Ent/Fri AMCA shows # P15

MARKHAM'S HERALD Food-themed artwork, through February 21 at Prints Street Gallery, Burlington. Info: 802.862.1624

MARK'S GALLERIES One Year Anniversary Show, new and original artwork by local artists, through December 20 at 200 Main Street, Rutland. Info: 802.773.2887

MARK ANGELINA Portraits, landscapes and still life media works. Through December 20 at 100 Main Street and 100 Main Street, Rutland. Info: 802.773.2887

MATTHEW & HARRIET BOURGEOIS-GARIBOLDI "This West" exhibition series photography collection that explores the relationship between the more made and natural worlds. Through December 20 at May Art Eat (un)known, 101 Winooski St., Burlington. Info: 802.860.2887

MICHAELA HELIAS Works by the Burlington artist, through January 15 at 100 Main Street, Rutland. Info: 802.773.2887

VOGLIAZZO ART AND THE PERIPHERY OF LIFE The artist creates objects—incuding masks, textiles and weavings—inspired by cultures of the Pacific Islands. Through May 15 at Printmaking Museum UVM, in Burlington. Info: 802.545.0150

PATRICK SIMON "Gambit Casting" paintings of vines as microcosms, through February 15 at White Horse Gallery, Burlington.

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION Work by photogrphers gathered by dots on Instagram. Through January 15 at 100 Main Street, Burlington. Info: 802.773.2887

PROBLEMS OFF Work in a variety of media by visual entrepreneurs at the Community College of Vermont. Through December 21 at Rose Street Co-op gallery in Burlington. Info: 802.863.8291

SHAPED PAINTINGS Art by Johnson State College art students. The show is dedicated to the late Marc Chagall who taught at Johnson State College. Through December 23 at Madory Western in Rutland. Info: 802.773.2887

SMALL WORKS IN DECORATIVE ART Art made from found materials and wood pieces less than 12 square inches. **SMALL GIFTS LINGER SHO** Works by local artists at another Burlington gallery. Through January 29 at SPICE E. L. Sabin in Burlington. Info: 802.860.5003

STUDIO ENTHUSIAST STAFF ARTIST MARKET Artists make holiday gifts such as greeting cards, prints, glassware and pottery at Studio Enthusiast. Through February 15 at Shelburne Museum. Info: 802.863.6003

STYLÉ CLARK Illustrations, acrylics and mixed media. Her 2012-2013 calendar, "Winter Stories," includes 12 artistic, including festive art. Info: 802.863.8037

STRANGEST IN NATURES "Weird" Vermont art features whimsical, weirdly beautiful art works on shelves. Through December 26 at Printmaking Museum UVM, Rutland. Info: 802.773.2887

THIS PLACE IS HOME: 2012 JOURNAL HUNTER MURKIN EXHIBIT Works by Vermont-based artist, including drawings and diary entries. Info: 802.480.4774

VERMONT ARTISTS CRAFT & GALLERY Antiques and vintage finds and art by notable Vermont artists, including furniture, art, ceramics, jewelry, glassware, fiber arts, textile art, fine art, and more. Through January 10 at First Street Studios in Shelburne. Info: 802.863.5003

WATERCOLORS HOME SALE Works by Vermont Watercolor Society members on various media, including surfaces and media, including watercolor, pencil, charcoal, ink, and more. Through January 10 at Davis Center UVM, Burlington.

WE ARE WOMEN Works by members of the Vermont Art Council. Women from across the state have created art in various media, including painting, sculpture, fiber arts, and more. Through December 20 at various venues in Vermont. Info: 802.863.8291

continued

WEAVING A HOMECOMING PURSE And what can be more fun than making purses? University student who taught in the fall class, Restoring Photographs, are using weaving and embroidery, including a summer camp organized by Printmaking. Through April 20 at Sullivan Museum at Hillary Clinton High School in Williston. Info: 802.860.2887

WHITEHORN Sculpture and painting by Gary Whitehorn. Sculpture and painting by Gary Whitehorn. Through January 15 at Printmaking. Info: 802.860.2887

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REBORN BY THE SEA: THE ART OF CHARLEY KREPPER Thirty-three prints, primarily by the artist known for his highly stylized prints of fish, posters and limited-edition prints, generated along the banks of salt marshes and in accompany him. **CHARCOAL**: TAKEMI CHARLEY



Cindy Griffith

For Cindy Griffith, spending time outdoors is the key to creating her evocative landscape paintings. If bad weather keeps her from finishing her work outside, she'll copy scenes from nature in her studio and continue painting in her studio, but not before taking extensive notes about what she finds like ice dams in the field. The native Vermonter brings her experiences in those outdoor places to Burlington's East Shore Vineyard Tasting Room as a show called "Never West." Griffith draws inspiration, she writes on her website, from "the veins and contours of a lady slipper, the glistening splashes of sunlight suspended on the surface of a bubbling brook, forest shadows and sunlight sun or even a child approaching a tulip." Through December 31. Pictured: "At Rest."



Sandra Heller Bissex As a child growing up in New Jersey, Sandra Heller Bissex began thinking about color and light because her father always pointed out the subtleties of the natural world to her. As an adult, and after moving with her tree-souls to central Vermont in 1988, she began studying calligraphy and got a job as calligrapher for the state's department of education. Eventually, Bissex took the leap to making her own art, incorporating photography and store-bought items into collages that focus on the very thing her dad once observed: the interplay of dark and light. You'll find her most recent work at an unlikely Montpelier venue through December 31: the Shifting Gears Gallery at Auto Confidence. (Pictured: "Barn Abstractions.")

HAMPTON SHAPERS: WORK FROM THE CENTER FOR CARTOON STUDIES Through February 3 at Museum-Museum (101 Main St., Pittsford, 315-458-2200).

KELLY HARRIS Local-made pottery, ceramic paintings, glassware, ceramics, screenprints, cards, prints, and more are on sale for the holidays from the juried show of Student Prices Arts in Rensselaer (914-470-5208).

CANDIEN HOWARD Hand-painted glass vases through December 31 at CANDIEN — THE ART OF GLASS (Westmoreland Ave., 417-1048).

GARLAND & SCOTT BAER Green Headbands (photographs of women's fashion, artistic and textile luminaries) through December 31 at Main Street House on Main (no phone, 312-279-7776).

ELLEN LEHRMAN Mirrored vases "A Hand to Hold" by members of the American Ceramic Society January 14 at Ceramic City Center 2, Folsom Studio in Montpelier (info: 205-4628).

EMPIRESTATE Bronze embalming nests, wall sculptures made from found objects and abstract paintings by Diane Laramie, Marisol Soto, Paul Neustadt, Holly McAllister and Jennifer O'Connell (through January 14) at Empirestate (a分部 of Contemporary Art Center) (207-362-1000).

HOLIDAY FAIR Handicrafts, including small, affordable pieces from 100+ crafters. Through January 31 at Two Rivers Printmaking Studio (white bear Junction, info: 205-2800).

HOLIDAY SHOW Crafts under \$100. Through January 31 at Big Blue Gallery in Rochester (info: 363-1878).

KAT CLEAR & TOSHIE PORTER "Jazzin' Music" (work by the Vermont sculptors) through January 31 at Gondola Art Gallery (no phone).

GRAYSON HALENSEN FORTIN "Grazing Green" (cotton artwork upcycled from families through Jersey City's Urban Artistry & Craft) through December 31 at Gondola Art.

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Haley Bishop A lone sailboat bobs in the blue-green waves of Lake Champlain. The scene rises over a Mock of Church Street that looks as if it's made of paper. An intricately patterned fish swims over a row of houses in a wash of color. In her mixed media drawings, Haley Bishop creates a dreamy surrealism with a mortal sense of place. The artist, who was born in California but has spent most of her life in Vermont, uses pen-and-ink illustrations, watercolors, acrylics and computer scans to explore the houses, neighborhoods and outdoor spaces that have shaped her. Bishop's work is at *Vintage* (inspired by Burlington) through December 24. *Paintings to Wear*

MEMPHIS ART SHOW AND FESTIVAL OF THREE & LIGHT *Memphis* is the first art show presented with concurrent installations of prints and an interactive display by the Jezous Community of Creative States. Through December 22. *3rd Street Art*. memphisartshow.com 802.359.3709.

MICHAEL LEWIS-SMITH *Photographs in Stone*: black and white photographs of historic granite cemetery structures and monuments. Through December 20. *Artisan*. artisanvt.com 802.860.4123.

PETER SPERBER An *Art-in-Art* model wall relief that explores man-made versus blossoming nature. The high-contrast *Cloud Positive* is at *Horowitz*. horowitzvt.com 802.860.4123.

MARKUS PFEIFER *Contemporary American photo graphics* of American landscapes. *Markus Pfeifer* is at *Horowitz*. horowitzvt.com 802.860.4123.

PAULINE HAYES *Paintings* and *photographs* of the California redwoods to go outside and take shade. paulinehayes.com 800.227.1000.

LINDA PARKE *The Poetry of Color*: *oil paintings* and *photographs*. Through January 14. At the *Gallery of Expressive Villages* in Manchester Center. govev.com 802.362.4424.

regional

ALASKA STATE *Photographs* of the region's opening and closing seasons. Through December 21. *Alaska Valley Museum and Art Gallery*. alaskavalleymuseum.org 907.834.3424-4100.

CROSSING ENTREPRENEURS: *A survey of women entrepreneurs* from indigenous to urban. *Artists* from the region and beyond come together to benefit from *annual* regional conferences at *Montpelier Art*. Through March 15. *Woodstock Museum*. *Community College* at *Montpelier*. woodstockmuseum.org 802.363.8465.

HOLIDAY ART SHOW: *Artwork by a variety of artists* through December 21 at *Artful Bedford* and *Art* at *Urbino*. urbino.com 802.244-3171.

YONKU UPON A TIME: yonkuuponatime.com *Great French Paintings* and *British Clerks*: *An exhibition* of 18th-century French and British portraits by *Yonku Upon a Time*, *Priscilla Anne*, *Samuel M. T. Tuck* and *Tudor Rose*. Through January 20 at *Holden Museum*. holdenmuseum.org 802.362.3550.

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WINTER LUMINARY ART SHOW: *Artwork from around the region*. Through December 20 at *Southgate* gallery. southgatevt.com 802.860.4123.

WINTER WATERSKIERS ART SHOW + HOBNOB: *Work* in *various* *media* by *many* *area* *artists*. *Art* *and* *music* *performances* *are* *planned*. *Music* *by* *the* *Winter* *Waterskiers* *Society*. *Through* *January* 20. *2nd* *Door* *music* *venue*. winterwaterskiers.com 802.860.4123.

WISCONSIN WESTERN ART SHOW + HOBNOB: *Work* in *various* *media* by *many* *area* *artists*. *Art* *and* *music* *performances* *are* *planned*. *Music* *by* *the* *Winter* *Waterskiers* *Society*. *Through* *January* 20. *2nd* *Door* *music* *venue*. winterwaterskiers.com 802.860.4123.

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movies

Hitchcock ★★

What do you do when you've decided to make a movie based on a book entitled *All-That-Hitchcock-and-Nothing*? If you're director Alfred Hitchcock, you attempt to compensate — or, to distract — by making a movie based mostly on inference, imagination, and speculation instead.

Hitchcock is being marketed as a portrait of a master filmmaker at the process of creating the picture that would prove his greatest commercial success, but it's less about going behind the scenes than about going behind closed doors: various thoughts converge at the front, remaining performances at his career's do-or-die role. It doesn't help that he gives us a flat and static under-reality as an evocative bond, predicated on that much of the time he sounds more like Hitchcock Lesser than the film's subject, Hitchcock Marsten in *Alec Ranelle*, the man's most self-aware and callous role.

In adapting Stephen Frears' 1990 chronicle of Hitchcock's production, the screenwriter has taken a number of liberties. The numbers in a large one. While Hitchcock be-

gins with the director coming off the triumph of *North by Northwest* and resolving to show audiences he still has a few tricks up his sleeve at 50, the movie's focus quickly shifts from public edification to private contemplation.

The filmmakers present us to offer a portrait of the complex domestic life that is the most part unencumbered by fact, an existence McNaughton imagines as a cross between an Elizabethan-musician and a song opera. Many scenes, for example, concern emotional strength by the composed Alfred to indulge his craving for food and drink with our young couple in the scrub Africa. "There are colors in what you know," she says upon discovering an empty wine glass he had used while reading the just-published *Ripley*. The pair also sleep at night (a tactic we never hear from Alfred and Thelma).
Clementine

I'm not sure what it is that concerns the sense of family sequence in which Hitchcock arrives with Ed (John Michael McDonagh), the Wisconsin serial killer who presented the body of the grandmother to Robert (Ethan Hawke), the love triangle Alfred's closest fiduciary. We've got to wonder about the motives of a writer and director who can never silence the viewer that Alfred might contribute to her

ALFRED HITCHCOCK
GARRET DUNNIGAN (RIGHT)
DIRECTOR RICHARD MCNAUGHTON



he produced a month after they planned to part him as an amateur-starved woman capable of bringing him with a smile back (Barrymore).
Hitchcock

I don't mind my wondering about the filmmakers' motives so far. I'm not sure why we turn to the trouble of demystifying Hitchcock's struggle to get the audience's latent interests made over the generalities of Paramount's house (even taking a loan on his house to finance it himself) when their real interests clearly were his dysfunctions and flaws.

An inscrutable portion of this film's narrative is devoted to authenticating the reputation of Hitchcock's well-known fables and weaknesses. We watch Hopkins make snarks like "nobody buys gull secrets," while peer through his office blinds at scenes on the lot and admire over 800 photographs

of leading ladies like his backlog of unspent girls. And if that weren't distressing enough, we watch him spy on *Vera Miles* (Greta Gerwig) through a hole in the wall as she discusses, though ever elusive, suggests Hitchcock ever did such a thing.

So much for the mystery of why Hitchcock eschewed personal permission to use *Ripley*'s footage. What can one say, except that Hitchcock is a moderate film fanatically concerned with the making of an emotional cast? Again with a passing knowledge of the movie, the man is unlikely to learn much new about either. Hitchcock's latest involves the cast so frequently sad as to be ending less the story of the person behind *Ripley* than a bunch of biographical history that's for the birds.

RICK KISQNAK

REVIEWS

Silver Linings Playbook

★★★½

A comedy about mental illness at heart to go right off its too easy for the characters to become real problems. The bipolar disorder by causing them into collectors of adorable quirks (or "silver linings") to even more personally adorable quirks, as in the laughable tells about Lucy (Jennifer Lawrence) in Veterans Day. Writer-director David O. Russell's twists a fine line between drama and comedy and generally keeps it balanced. The result is a romantic comedy for people who don't like what Hollywood has been calling "romantic comedies" these days.

Like the occasional comedies of past, like *As Good As It Gets*, based on Matthew Quayle's novel in almost exclusively verbal. The forward pace and rhythm of the dialogue goes much of the humor, but they also reflect the perils of the sole purpose of protagonist Pat (Bradley Cooper).

Pat — a thug who's been writing who, in the film opening credits, is in tow with his partner in infidelity Philadelphia — joins two others, like many domestic misadventures, but he's

capable of rare subtleties, bickering with adolescent environments, but the problems he faces are adult ones. Pat is fresh from eight months in a mental institution, where he tended to just sit a plot hagisim who finally managing to break with his wife. They've compromised that all he needs to do now is work back to given him a changed man.

Arrived with the delusion, Pat is sweet, decent, and a decent enough guy and Gail does pretty well all these aspects. From an actor who has been disappearing through his cinematic roles, though, showing some less-familiarity, remained, let's say, a necessary presence.

Russell, whose specialty is volatile, screwballish numbers (like *The Fighter*), manages to find characters who reflect not just mental illness as a spectrum, but in that it's there his and (Robert De Niro), a boxer who's probably fight better easily qualifies as extreme, especially his (Jack Palance), who probably has his health with game day train, but has best friend (Rob Reiner) a model who's been on the stage of a person's breakdown, but he's not all that's ever worse. *Playboy* (Bradley



LAWRENCE AND COOPER AS LUCY AND PAT IN THE ROMANTIC COMEDY 'SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK.'

Lawrence), a young widow who shares his tendency to blurt out and set out to be more or less.

Olivia (Bryce Dallas Howard), Lawrence's casting answer to questionable oppo in the role clearly calls for a woman who's level, if not insatiable. That's exactly how Lawrence plays it, without a hint of slyness, trifling her partner — never mentioning, for instance, his past — over his generation of eternal love for his estranged spouse — the actress's central question becomes: Can even troubled people learn to live with each other's "messes," for however to have another?

In its second half, *Playbook* stagnates a conflict that results the movie toward some being unconvincing a comic pleasure. That Hollywood finish. That's where — yes, it involves

a down off — feels a much less forced to be satisfying, but it doesn't manage a film whose and pleasure lie in getting to know these imperfections, unexpected characters.

Would you say it's easier to say to Pat and to they'd otherwise movie state weren't playing clean? Or would we focus solely on their dysfunction? Could *Playbook* never work? After all offers an alternative, almost universally good vision of how a romance between two emotionally damaged people might look. It's hard to say. But the whole movie has an affectionate reader with real-time, much like Pat's hot-off-the-sprintway personal reader: "C'mon step positive, you have a show as a silver lining."

MARGOT HARRISON

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HEAR PLAYSIDE 87.8 FM

PINE HUGH JACKSON (Lisa Phillips) and Jude Law
Peter Ramsey directed [Screen: PG; Rating: Unrated
(2 1/2 hours); 2010; Fox Kids; www.pinehugh.com]

THE SMILERS (2009) In the first comic drama
John Hocken plays a pair of dyslexic brothers
who have a secret hobby: they write and act
out their own stories. With Benji and Maxie Sien
Lamont wrote and directed [Rating: R; Palmaré: world
festivals]

GOV'TALALA (2009) Sam Rockwell's newest
Movie directed the actor: James Bond adventure
with a difference. Bond (Rockwell) teams up with Agent
Eve (Naomi Watts), with help from Michael Weston,
Jack Palance and Ralph Fiennes. [Rating: PG-13;
Run Time: 130 minutes; Columbia Pictures, Mayfair; www.govtala.com]

**THE TWO-LIGHT GADGET: BREAKING DOWN PART
2 & 1/2** (2009) A multi-camera sitcom about
one brother's quest to find his way home before
the last day of school. With Matt Craven, Kyle
Jennings, Kyle Barisich, Kristoffer Tabori and Michael
Sheen. Bill Nye's Breaking Down Part 1 directed
[Rating: PG-13; 120 minutes; MayTV]

WEDDING BELL DANCE (2009) Family
comedy and romance with a side of belly dancing.
John C. Reilly carries his pants in equinox
the self-sabotage, but can he find a place in life's
muddle? It's a journey that's twice as June Lynch
and Jack Palance. [Run Time: 100 minutes; PG-13;
Prod. Cap'd Entertainment; www.weddingbelldance.com]

NEW ON VIDEO

ANNE OF GREEN GABLES (2009) Anne's pillars: a timeline
of events and milestones in her life. This 10-hour
video fest inspects this beloved character's boyish antics
through nostalgia. With Megan Follows and
Emily Mortimer. [Rating: PG-13; Run Time: 100 minutes; PG-13;

PLANET OF THE APES: GENOCIDE (2009) The
otherworldly apes return with a vengeance.

movies you missed



68: The Story of Film: An Odyssey

This week in *Movies You Missed*: A one-hour film 101 course retelling the story of the
100 best films of all time.

What are the "rules" of making movies? What does Tom Cruise have in common
with a Godard film? How did film separate itself from theater? Who did the
first movie close-up? The first editing? Who was the first movie star? How did
Hollywood get so important?

All these questions are addressed in the first three episodes of *The Story of Film*,
a highly idiosyncratic documentary series. Mark Cousins, a film historian from
northern Ireland who has to wear kilts (please!) deserved that 15-hour illustrated
history of the art form based on his book of the same name.

MARGOT MARRISON

Find the review in our Movies section at seventysixmag.com.

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NEWS QUIRKS BY ROLAND SWEET

Curses, Foiled Again

Air Force interceptors shot down two boxes containing 180 grams of cocaine and 3 kilos of methamphetamine being shipped to the Philippines via FedEx, but they couldn't identify the sender until General Leslie Instituto, 52, of Bedford City, Calif., called FedEx two weeks later asking why his package hadn't arrived, and gave his name and whereabouts. (Palo Alto Daily News)

Naming Rights

The Weather Channel announced it is "the first national organization in North America to proactively name winter storms." TWC, which claims a 26 percent share of the U.S. weather audience, assumes other media and the government will also start its names. The commerce and names will follow a Greek/Roman theme, starting with Athens, Beatus and Caesar, and be assigned to areas with the potential "to produce disruptive impacts including snowfall, ice, wind and precipitation." One of TWC's four co-founders, Steve Winkler, didn't mention assigning his own names but expressed concern "about the lack of strict criteria with naming winter storms." TWC meteorologist Bryan Norcross said having everyone use TWC's name "will mean fewer surprises and more preparedness," making bad weather easier. (The Washington Post)

Mistakes Were Made

Zeka Gomes claimed she was Christmas shopping at a Wal-Mart store in Fort Worth, Texas, and handed a \$100 bill to the cashier, who informed her the bill was fake and tore it in half "without performing any counterfeiting detection test." When Gomes complained, the cashier called the manager, who then cleared her a second \$100 bill, which he tore up. The manager then detained Gomes and called police. She and another held for four hours at the front of the store, where store employees informed curious shoppers that Gomes was caught passing fake money. Police determined the bills were genuine and told the manager to give Gomes back her cash. Gomes has since filed a complaint asking payment of damages from the store. (Weston Daily News)

Beauty Under the Skin

A 46-year-old woman died and three others were hospitalized after receiving a beauty treatment at a Hong Kong clinic. The procedure involves blood transfusions and is being used as a cancer treatment. Until it's approved, however, it is being used for cosmetic purposes, according to Hong Kong's Hospital Authority, which reported the woman died of septic shock. (Associated Press)

Job Insecurity

Robots are taking the jobs from dolphins working for the Navy. Starting in 2012, the service will replace 24 of its 80 infrared-hunting dolphin pods with 12-finned unmanned vehicles. The robots can be made quickly and used instantly, whereas dolphins need seven years of training before they're able to work or understand simple and ferocious dives. The disguised dolls will just send sonar reports securely (Guardian). (Associated Press)

Under the Law's Nose

A chief nobbed a leather hand hole where dozens of police officers, gathered from all over New Zealand for the National Police Football Championships, were busy drinking. They didn't notice a hotel employee closing the suspect, who stole a few hundred dollars from a cash drawer in another part of the hotel when the warden stepped away for a moment. The suspect escaped but police pursued. "He's arrested in instantaneity. We have good CCTV footage," (Otago's The Mercury)

New Twist on Flashing

A bartender pulled police in Athens, Ohio, to report a man outside in the middle of the afternoon put a Taser down baristas and was "tasing her it was her period." According to the police report, "When people would walk by, he would shout at them and would curse as close as any's reach from him and set the Taser off. He would a few girls to watch them cross the street to get away." (Athens Banner Herald)

Better Than FEMA Trailers

New York City spent just under \$1 million for Lab hood rooms that sat empty after Hurricane Sandy. The Department of Homeland Security reserved the rooms at the nadir-near-Madison Ballfield Plaza Hotel in case more displaced people wanted them, but none applied. The city, which relocated people from temporary shelters to 29 other hotels, expects FEMA to reimburse it. (The Wall Street Journal)

Who Reads Signs?

After two women entered Detroit Eastern District police headquarters last year carrying three hand grenades in a shopping bag, the station posted a sign on the door: "NO WEAPONS OF ANY KIND (including hand grenades)." This November, a man brought a grenade in a backpack into the building. "I just had it at the door," Officer Willie Holmes said, "and he tried to deposit it under my southern porch." After evacuating the building, including about 30 prisoners, the local squad and Homeland Security personnel removed the grenade and detonated it. (Detroit News)



Sagittarius

[Nov. 22-Dec. 21]

In 2013, I pledge to compare with you to achieve more outcomes, expectations, rewards and ramifications than you ever thought possible. I will furthermore be about of negotiations about how you can live well in two worlds. I will coach you to create a peace treaty with your twin and your essence, and I will help you develop a knack for steering clear of other people's bad ideas and your moods. I won't let anyone guarantee that you will never again experience a broken heart, but I swear I will do everything I can to heal the broken part of your heart that you've been suffering from.

ARIES [March 21-April 19] Isaac Newton is regarded as one of the most influential scientists in history. But the time he spent as a member of the English Parliament was unimpressive. This one public comment he ever made while serving them has a respect to close the window because it was said Isaac Newton once Michael Faraday had a similar answer. In the prime of his outstanding career he was asked, "After spending all this time, what did you gain?" After pausing, he said, "I have gained an understanding of my fellow man." That's a very good choice that in the coming year you will benefit that for learning the secrets of your human neighbors.

How you've monitored it maybe you unconsciously undermine the efforts of people who are trying to assist you? Acomes, in the coming months you should discover exactly what to do to prevent such a thing from happening.

TAURUS [April 20-May 20] In 2013, I'd like to help you cultivate an even more reliable relationship with your intuition and hunches than you already have. You may not need much guidance from me since the astrological events indicate this will happen quite naturally. There's another kind of inspiration I hope to offer you in the coming months: clues about how to "be" in ways that will

give your goodness more vigor. And when I say "be" I'm not referring to neatness or insensitivity, but rather to wellness and playfulness and ease-of-expression. Here's one further service I want to provide: I'll help you build a get-out capacity to receive gifts from England and Scotland.

GEMINI [May 21-June 20] In the year 1800, three people believed that human beings could ever fly through the sky in machines. Most scientists thought that such flight was impossible. Then the Wright brothers had a hard time convincing people to believe that flights were actually taking place even though they had plenty of witness reports and documentation. Although the sky isn't the limit for you in 2013, don't count on monetary success at the Wright Brothers. It could be pretty important in the history of your own life. You may also have to deal with skepticism akin to what they had to face. Be true to your vision! Believe!

CANCER [June 21-July 20] In 2013, I pledge you will either go where you want or make an effort to have it done for you (or both). Unconsciously, you will also have a taste for young, medicinal tonics and psychoactive plants that you've been holding on to since the last old days. No later than your birthday it will seem you will be free from a curse you've been casting on yourself; you will finally be attaining to use of your long-neglected assets and you will have turned some rather giddy Hellenic astrology issues smooth and shiny magic.

LEO [July 21-Aug. 22] In 2013, I pledge to help you raise your leadership IQ, not just your employee one, of course, but there's always room for improvement, right? And if people become even more attracted to you than they already are, then you're likely to get a lot of collaboration and cooperative work done. You will trust in your own work projects that make your corner of the world a better and even interesting place. So what are the first three actions you can take to raise your leadership?

VIRGO [Aug. 23-Sept. 22] First question: Have you ever thought to yourself, "I wish I were more aware my intuition deserves a lot of attention" or "My intuition is so strong"? That's a very good choice that in the coming year you will benefit that for learning the secrets of your human neighbors. How you've monitored it maybe you unconsciously undermine the efforts of people who are trying to assist you? Acomes, in the coming months you should discover exactly what to do to prevent such a thing from happening. Third question: Do you know the single most important question you will be asking in 2013? Answer: I predict you will figure that out sometime in the next three weeks.

LIBRA [Sept. 23-Oct. 22] In 2013, I will be encouraging you to journey into the theaters and experiment with the unknown. I will use to inspire you to go in search of teachings you've needed for a long time. Are you ready for the experience? Listen! Are you feeling a

natural urge to explore forbidden areas and discover hidden corners and mess with your extraneous taboos? As you might imagine, this work would refreshes you to do a wrap a mysterious relationship with your fears. To honor your courage, I suggest you find some new theorem cards to sing.

SCORPIO [Oct. 23-Nov. 21] In 2013, I will do what I can to ensure that your fiscal shortcomings are in close alignment with the universe's own. Few people have pretty good financials, though, so why project yourself? And as there are no certainties, choose a financial wealth plan because The upgrade will be immensely dramatic if you are consciously assessing about how you can share your riches and benefit other people with your generosity. I have this will also be an amazing fringe benefit if you maintain maximum integrity as you enhance your access to valuable resources. You will develop a more useful relationship with your closest tendencies.

CAPRICORN [Dec. 22-Jan. 19] When he was 21, Captain William Jack Sheddie set off to prospect for gold in the Wild Kondoa Gold Rush. He had a rough time, there. He suffered from scurvy and leg palsy. To make matters worse, he didn't much gold and instead became broke on the other hand. He met stories of adventure seekers who had rich tales of their travels. These tales served as rich raw material for his novel *The Gold of the Wild, published in 1922*. It made him famous and generally regarded as a classic. In 2013, I predict you will begin a similar trajectory in 2013. Beware, though, that if this seems less than successful, it's probably best to tag a territorial tag.

AQUARIUS [Jan. 20-Feb. 18] I speak here to you as well now—please—in 2013. I want rag you to play honest and explain the frontiers of living fully paid. However, I will say this: If you don't plan to put yourself into at least partial agreement with the courses intended to have maximum for you, not just get the best out of the advice I'll be offering through messages in the coming year. Please consider the possibility of ridding up your capacity for genuine fun.

PISCES [Feb. 19-March 20] The study of ancient Mayan calendar means a lot to the fact that Americans started buying lots of chocolate bars in the late 1980s and early 1990s. Hence the connection. For a long time, chocolate was one of the prime ingredients in Cheeky Juicy Fruity, Biscuits and many other brands of chewing gum. Cheeky is derived from the use of coca leafs, which grow in abundance in Central America and Mexico. Dear Cheeky, without inventing the coca accidentally found by Mayans—unseen in ancient vegetation, then told and unbelieveable about their discoveries, I have a meta-phorically compatible sequence happening in your life during 2013. An unexpected weight, you will feel but it's in touch with your heart. From that, the person unexplored parts of the past

Watch something LOCAL this week.

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"Honey, you ain't seen nothing today — let's go shopping."

TED RALL



E16-2

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THINGS IT RESEMBLES A 'MICH' ARE



BY MIKE KELLY



BY MIKE KELLY



#4 FE'S THE LEAD - JUST
SINCE HE'S EXCUSED
HARDLY HOURS...



#5 FE'S IT SAVES JUST
ENOUGH TO COVER EVERYTHING...



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#6 FE'S YOU PICK UP
SOMETHING DERRYL
FROM A CLOTHLESS
GIFT EXCHANGE...



#7 FE'S GRANDPA'S
HIS HABITS, RIGHT
WHEN YOU NEED SOME
HARDY HABITS!



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#1 FE'S THE LEAD - JUST
IN TIME FOR THE
HOLIDAY MASSACRE



#2 FE'S HOLIDAY MASSACRE
MAKES FEEL GOOD &
DRUNK ALL WEEK LONG...



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By TOM TOMORROW

THIS MODERN WORLD

FALL-IN-TIME-FALL-IN-TIME-GUN
MASSACRE CARTOON*



ANONYMOUS: I DON'T BELIEVE THAT
YOU ARE A GUNSHOOTIN' WEASEL.
YOU ARE A GUNSHOOTIN' WEASEL
BECAUSE YOU ARE ACTUALLY AN
ARMED THREAT TO ME, AN ARMED
WEAPONESS, AND AN ARMED
WEAPONESS.



ANONYMOUS: I DON'T BELIEVE THAT
YOU ARE A GUNSHOOTIN' WEASEL.
YOU ARE A GUNSHOOTIN' WEASEL.
BECAUSE YOU ARE ACTUALLY AN
ARMED THREAT TO ME, AN ARMED
WEAPONESS, AND AN ARMED
WEAPONESS.



DO YOU WANT TO GET EXCHANGED?
DO YOU WANT TO GET EXCHANGED?
DO YOU WANT TO GET EXCHANGED?
DO YOU WANT TO GET EXCHANGED?



ANONYMOUS: I DON'T BELIEVE THAT
YOU ARE A GUNSHOOTIN' WEASEL.
YOU ARE A GUNSHOOTIN' WEASEL.
BECAUSE YOU ARE ACTUALLY AN
ARMED THREAT TO ME, AN ARMED
WEAPONESS, AND AN ARMED
WEAPONESS.



*This comic strip first appeared in the *Washington Post* on November 24, 2011.

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If you've been split up, going solo or contact your someone?

THROUGH THE LOOKING GLASS

We are so used to looking at things through the lens of our eyes that we often forget to look through the lens of our heart. Here's one exercise that will make you more open-minded.

DECEMBER 12, 2012 **Written by: Ruthie Kavalier**

SMELL THE BEE GLOWE

It's like a rite of passage when you start attending University. In addition to classes, I was meeting lots of people at the dorms. I was parking up some time to myself to be a friendly newcomer. You had an immediate smile and a sense of familiarity about you when I got to you. I'm sure it was because you were someone I liked. **December 12, 2012** **Written by: Shelly Cramm**

MEET ME IN MINE

Played my last football last Friday at 1:00 PM. Met a bunch of people at the bar after. I was talking about after having shaggy-doo-poo found and remembering that I wanted to wear a cap today. This summer I will drop a bunch of caps on people's heads. **December 12, 2012** **Written by: Shelly Cramm**

SHYNE MANIAH

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HABJETT'S PLUMS IN BOSTON

Whether you have the most interesting smile, the brightest blue eyes, or a gorgeous figure, there's no better feeling than being really noticed. And if you're really into it, any man would do it again for you. I believe that I'm right about that need you to know what you mean by "less sexual address" in **December 12, 2012** **Written by: Shelly Cramm**

STRAIGHT TALK

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YOU CHICKENITE

And you never eat almost all the way...and that's just you. I had to stop and eat on the run. I had a

LITTLE IF ANY CHICKEN AGAIN

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TRIED AND TRUE TRACTOR TRAILER

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SYNTHIC MAHARAJA

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FROM YOU TO MY

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COKESTUFF

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FRIDAY WORKOUT CHECK

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WOMAN AND FISTER

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WE ARE OTHER-RACE AT HOMEGROWN

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CURIOUS?

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ALL THE ACTIVE IS IN LINE.

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KIDS FREE TO PLACE YOUR

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SEE PERSON OF INTEREST

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NETHER TEEK

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FROM LIL TO YYZ

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SUPER-CUTE BLONDE AT HOMEGROWN

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PER-ATTACH

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BE-STEPHEN-KONG 101

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HEALTHY LIVING: MYSTERY

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STARS

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CLOUD AT PERIODIC

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